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FAMILY PRAYERS

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FAMILY PRAYERS.

FAMILY PRAYERS;

CHIEFLY ON THE MODEL OF THE PRAYERS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

Prayers for Special Occasions.

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM NIVEN, B.D.

AUTHOR OF

'THOUGHTS ON THE KINGDOM OF GOD,' 'THE VICTORY OVER DEATH,'

ETC. ETC.

'In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.' (Phil. iv. 6.)

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PREFACE.

In the rich treasury of the Holy Scriptures there are given us not only commandments to pray, encouragements to prayer, exhortations to continue instant in prayer, and assurances that Almighty God is the Hearer and Answerer of prayer, but we have many prayers recorded for our instruction which were offered under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and must consequently be for things which are agreeable to the will of God.

There are the prayers of our blessed Lord; the prayers of His Apostles; and the prayers of many holy men both under the Old *and New* Testament dispensations,

which were doubtless intended to guide us at all times, and to teach us how to pray.

When our Lord gave to His disciples that brief but comprehensive form of devotion which we call *the Lord's Prayer*, He said unto them, *After this manner therefore pray ye*, which seems to indicate that they were not only to use it as a form of prayer, but to model their prayers upon it, and to make it an example for prayer in a more extended form.

The Author of the present volume has long been deeply impressed with this idea, and has so far adopted it in the composition of these prayers. The *Morning* Prayers for the first week are *after the manner* of the Lord's Prayer, and those for the third week are suggested by our Lord's Intercessory Prayer; the *Evening* Prayers for *the second* week are on the model of the

prayers of St. Paul, and those for the fourth week are for the graces named in the Beatitudes.

The *Morning* Prayers for the second and fourth weeks, and the *Evening* Prayers for the first and third weeks, are for blessings temporal and spiritual, the subjects of which are, in each instance, announced.

In the busy times in which we live, it is necessary to study brevity in the preparation of Family Prayers, but where circumstances admit, the Author recommends that one or two of the Collects from the Book of Common Prayer should be selected and used before the Prayer for the Morning or Evening.

Some of the special prayers will be found suitable to be used in addition to, and others to be substituted for, the prayers of the day.

In a Book of Prayers, the Author has not thought it necessary always to mark by inverted commas texts from the Holy Scriptures, or quotations from the Book of Common Prayer.

May the great Hearer of Prayer be pleased to bless this volume, and to make it helpful to His people in the sacred exercises of family devotion!

Chelsea: Easter, 1871.

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MORNING PRAYERS.

OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

MORNING PRAYERS.

First Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

"After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven: Hallowed be Thy Name."

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast revealed Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, and hast called us to become Thy sons and daughters through faith in Him, we beseech Thee to shed abroad in our hearts Thy Holy Spirit, and to enable us to address Thee, saying, Abba, Father.

We come before Thee with thankful hearts, rejoicing in the return of this Thy holy day—the day which Thou hast given to be a sign between Thyself and us—the earnest and the foretaste of the rest that remaineth for Thy people.

Grant us, we pray Thee, to be so strengthened by Thy heavenly grace that

our fallen wills may be renewed, and our depraved affections subdued, and that both in our private devotions and in our public worship we may be enabled to *hallow Thy Name*, and to serve Thee in spirit and in truth.

Be present, Lord, in the solemn assemblies of Thy people this day. Wherever two or three shall meet together in Thy Name, be Thou in the midst of them, to bless them and to give them peace.

May a double portion of Thy Spirit rest upon Thy ministers, that in offering up the prayers and praises of Thy people, and in preaching Thy holy word, they may be enabled to glorify Thee, and that through their ministrations Thy people may be built up on their most holy faith, and sinners converted unto Thee.

Give Thy blessing to all Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, and other means of instruction for the young. Strengthen and encourage the hearts of the Teachers, and grant that those who are taught may receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save their souls.

We commend unto Thee all those who

from sickness or any other necessary cause are unable to come up to Thy house, or to join in the prayers and praises of Thy people. Be with them in their retirement, comfort their hearts by Thy Spirit, give them resignation to Thy will, and grant that the trials which Thou hast appointed them may work together for their good.

Have compassion, we entreat Thee, upon those who shall spend this day in idleness or in seeking their own pleasure, to the dishonour of Thy Name, and to the injury of their own souls. Awaken them to a sense of their guilt and danger, and give them that change of heart which shall constrain them to call the Sabbath a delight, and to devote it to the great ends for which it was ordained.

Hear us, in these our humble prayers and supplications, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

"Thy Kingdom come."

O LORD, the King of Glory, who hast exalted Thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to Thy kingdom in heaven, and hast given Him a name which is above every name, that at the Name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that He is Lord to the glory of God the Father; we bless and adore Thee that Thou hast called us to the knowledge of His Name, and to faith in Him.

Increase this knowledge, and confirm this faith in us evermore; deliver us wholly from the power of darkness, and make us true and faithful subjects of Christ's kingdom Take possession of our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit; expel from them all unholy desires and corrupt affections, and give us grace to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee.

We beseech Thee so to strengthen us

by Thy power that we may, under all circumstances, confess the faith of Christ crucified, and that fighting manfully under His banner, against sin, the world, and the devil, we may show ourselves to be His faithful soldiers and servants unto our lives' end.

Extend Thy kingdom everywhere, O Lord, and give great grace to those who are the subjects of it, that ever showing forth Thy praise and seeking to do Thy will, they may glorify Thee on the earth, and be instrumental in converting sinners unto Thee.

Look with compassion, we pray Thee, upon the dark places of the earth which are still the habitations of horrid cruelty, and grant that they may speedily become the abodes of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Bless for this end those means which Thou hast been pleased to ordain. Grant that Thy word may go forth with great power in these last times, to open men's eyes, and to turn them from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they *may obtain forgiveness* of sins, and an

inheritance among all them that are sanctified through faith that is in Christ.

Hasten, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy kingdom so surely promised, when the Lord Jesus shall come again in the glory of the Father and all the holy angels with Him, and when we and all Thy people shall have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul.

Thou hast assured us, in Thy word, that it is Thy good pleasure to give us the kingdom. Prepare us for it, we humbly pray Thee, and grant that when the Son of Man shall sit on the throne of His glory, we, and all who are dear to us, may be of those to whom He shall say, *Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*

Give us grace to serve and honour Thee this day, to watch and keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and in all things to act as the children of Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

"Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

O GOD, whose blessed Son was pleased to take our nature upon Him, that He might do Thy will, magnify Thy law, and redeem us to Thyself by His most precious blood, we beseech Thee to accept us for His sake, and to shed abroad in our hearts the grace of Thy Holy Spirit.

We behold, in the miseries of our fallen race, the bitter consequences of departing from Thee, of disobeying Thy will, and dishonouring Thy law; and we bless Thee that Thou hast had compassion upon us, and hast sent Thy Son to seek and to save us.

Give us, we entreat Thee, a lively faith in Him; and, oh, leave us not to follow our own wills, or to be enslaved by the devices of our own hearts, but teach us to do Thy will, and in all things to love *and honour Thee.*

We are deeply sensible of our weakness, and feel that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; but we know that in all circumstances Thy grace is sufficient for us, and that Thy strength is made perfect in weakness. Grant us then, O Lord, the grace which Thou seest to be needful for us, that we may do Thy will from our hearts, and accomplish that which Thou wouldest have us to do, during the little day that we are on the earth.

Extend the same blessing, we pray Thee, to all who fear Thy Name, small and great; preserve them from the power of temptation, write Thy laws in their hearts, and give them grace to glorify Thee in their bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

We are taught by Thy holy word that in the world we shall have tribulation, and we know not what opposition we may have to encounter, or what trials we may be called on to endure for Thy Name's sake; but we know that our strength is in Thee, and we are assured that whilst the world *passeth away* and the lust thereof, *he*

that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Hasten that happy time when *Thy will shall be done in earth as it is in heaven;* when every power that has opposed Thy righteous government shall be put down; when those who have corrupted Thy truth and hindered the advancement of Thy kingdom shall be destroyed, and when all shall know Thee, from the least even to the greatest.

Hold up our goings in Thy paths, O Lord, that our footsteps slip not, and grant that in thought, word, and deed, we may do Thy will this day; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

"Give us this day our daily bread."

O LORD, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, give us grace to glorify Thee, our Creator and Preserver, and to realize our constant dependence on Thee.

Thou hast watched over us ever since we were born, provided for all our wants, preserved us from many evils, and bestowed upon us innumerable blessings. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and all that is within us, bless His holy Name; bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all His benefits.

Continue Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, we beseech Thee. *Give us this day our daily bread*, and deny us not a daily portion of Thy grace, that we may be strengthened, not only outwardly in our bodies, but inwardly in our souls,

and so may be enabled to live to Thee, and to walk in the way of Thy commandments.

We pray for those who are in less favoured circumstances than ourselves. Bless them according to their wants. Bless the poor. O Thou who hast of Thy goodness prepared for the poor, give them patience under their privations, and mercifully supply their wants.

Thou hast chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom promised to them that love Thee. May the thought of this, Thy gracious purpose, comfort and sustain the poor, reconcile them to their present trials, and constrain them to a cheerful submission to Thy will.

It is Thy sovereign and wise appointment that, in the sweat of his face, man shall eat bread. Be pleased, then, to bless all lawful industry, and to prosper those who by bodily or mental labour seek to fulfil the duties of their calling.

And as all human industry must prove ineffectual without Thy blessing, continue, we pray Thee, to bless the sons of men in

their manifold labours, and in Thy good providence to send us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

Nor would we labour only for the meat that perisheth, but rather for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life. Lord, evermore give us this bread; and as Thy dear Son has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice unto God for a sweet-smelling savour, oh grant us grace to feed on Him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Be with us in all things this day, O Lord; feed us with food convenient for us, guide us by Thy counsel, and save us from everything that may be contrary to Thy will, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us."

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification, and hast promised forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Him; Grant us, we beseech Thee, grace to believe and trust in Him, that we may be justified freely by Thy grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

We are deeply conscious of our sinfulness in Thy sight, and feel that we are ever coming short of Thy glory, doing many things which we ought not to have done, and leaving undone many things which we ought to have done; but we know that as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him; and we are assured that if we confess our sins, *Thou art faithful* and just to forgive

us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Create then within us, O Lord, new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all grace, perfect remission and forgiveness.

And whilst we humbly ask forgiveness from Thee, we earnestly pray Thee to bestow upon us a spirit of tenderness and forbearance towards others. Teach us to love our enemies, to bless them that curse us, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them that despitefully use us and persecute us, that we may be the children of our Father which is in heaven, who maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and who sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Grant, O Lord God, that the knowledge of that forgiveness which our blessed Redeemer has so dearly purchased for us may be extended everywhere throughout the world, that men, hearing of the riches of Thy grace, may arise and return to their *Father, and* come to that fountain which

Thou hast opened for sin and all uncleanness.

We humbly commit ourselves to Thy gracious care this day. Be with us in our going out and coming in; keep us from evil, that it may not grieve us; and grant that we and all who love and fear Thee, walking in the light of Thy truth, may have fellowship one with another, and that the blood of Jesus Christ Thy Son may cleanse us from all sin.

O Lord God, merciful and gracious, who forgivest iniquity, transgression, and sin, be pleased to lend Thine ear to these our humble prayers and supplications, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

"Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

MOST HOLY GOD, who cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth any man, be pleased to look mercifully upon us Thy servants, who are exposed to manifold temptations.

We are weak and sinful mortals, dwelling in an ensnaring world, and ever liable to be turned aside from the path of Thy commandments; but we desire, with all reverence and humility, to commit our way unto Thee.

Undertake for us, we beseech Thee, and so guide us by Thy counsel, that we may not be left to ourselves, or permitted to wander into those ways in which we shall be peculiarly exposed to the power of evil. We know that it is not in man that *walketh to* direct his steps, but Thy grace

is all-sufficient; and we commit ourselves unto Thee, for Thou art able to keep us from falling, and at last to present us before the presence of Thy glory with exceeding joy.

Truly, O Lord, our hope is in Thee. Thou art our strength and our deliverer, our fortress and high tower. Keep us under the shadow of Thy wings, and grant us to hear the voice behind us, saying, This is the way, walk in it, when we turn to the right hand and when we turn to the left.

We are taught by Thy Holy Word that our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour. Give us grace to be sober and vigilant, that we may resist him, steadfast in the faith, and be able to withstand his wiles, and to quench all his fiery darts.

Preserve and deliver Thy people everywhere from the evil one; and, oh, give Thine angels charge concerning those who may be specially exposed to his subtlety and power. Hasten, we pray Thee, that happy day when he shall be permitted to

deceive the nations no more, but when the Lord Jesus, who has bruised the serpent's head, shall also bruise him under our feet.

Save us, O Lord, from presumption and self-confidence, that our adversary may not get the advantage of us; and grant us to walk circumspectly, as becometh those who are so liable to err; and to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation.

Enable us to live near to Thee, and teach us so to dwell in the secret place of the Most High that we may abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Hear us, O merciful God, in these our humble petitions; receive every member of this household into Thy holy keeping; give us the blessedness of those who endure temptation; and be Thyself our strength and our deliverer, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

" Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen."

O GOD, who art more willing to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give us more than either we desire or deserve, we beseech Thee to grant us a right judgment in all things, that we may ask for such things as are agreeable to Thy will, and present our petitions unto Thee with the full assurance that Thou wilt hear and answer our requests.

The *kingdom* for which we wait is *Thine*, and therefore we possess our souls in patience, knowing that, although its coming may be delayed for reasons unknown to us, but which are well known to Thee, it shall in due season come, and the saints of the Most High shall possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

Lord, remember us in that day, and

grant that we, with all who are dear to us, may be inheritors of Thine everlasting kingdom.

To Thee alone all *power* belongs, and therefore we know and believe that Thou wilt, in Thine own time, accomplish Thy revealed purpose ; and that all things shall be put under the feet of Thy dear Son, to whom all power in heaven and in earth is given. Hasten, we entreat Thee, the time when He shall subdue all things to Himself, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and when He shall reign for ever and ever.

We believe the promotion of *Thy glory* to be the great end of all things in creation, in providence, and in redemption; and we earnestly pray that it may be advanced in the building up of Thy temple everywhere, in the conversion of sinners, and in the final overthrow of all rebellion against Thy righteous will.

May God in all things be glorified by Jesus Christ; and may the time speedily come when the knowledge of Thy glory

shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea.

Be with us, Thy servants, O Lord, in all the events of this day. Deliver us from evil, and enable us rightly to discharge its duties, whilst we cheerfully bear its trials, knowing that all things shall work together for good to them that love Thee, to them that are the called according to Thy purpose.

Hear us, most gracious God, in these our humble prayers; accept our praises and thanksgivings for Thy manifold mercies, and teach us to cast all our care on Thee.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

Second Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Thanksgiving.

O GOD the Father of Mercies, we appear before Thee on this the morning of Thy holy day, in the Name of Thy beloved Son, and with the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory.

We thank Thee for our sabbaths, those days of rest and of communion with Thyself, which Thou hast mercifully appointed for us, amidst the cares and toils of this present world, and which have proved seasons of strength and refreshment to Thy

people who have gone before us. Give us grace to remember the sabbath-day to keep it holy, and grant that each earthly sabbath may find us better prepared for the rest and the inheritance which Thou hast promised us.

We bless Thee for the privilege of public worship, for the ministry of Thy Word, and the administration of Thy holy sacraments. Be pleased to accompany these Thine ordinances with an abundant blessing this day, and to make them effectual to the building up of Thy people, and to the conversion of sinners unto Thee.

Thou hast called us to serve Thee in perilous times, when our great adversary is busily sowing tares, and when religious errors abound on every side; but we bless Thee that Thou hast given to us Thy Word to be the unerring rule of our faith and practice, and that Thou hast provided many means of sound instruction for the young, and for all who desire to be taught of Thee.

O send out Thy light and Thy truth to *lead and guide* us this day. Command

Thy blessing—even the blessing of Thy Holy Spirit—upon all faithful pastors and teachers, and upon those who, from love to Thy Name, shall be engaged in feeding the lambs of Thy flock, or in seeking to lead others into the paths of righteousness and peace.

We are deeply sensible that our sufficiency is of Thee, that Paul may plant and Apollos water, but that Thou alone canst give the increase. Oh, give the increase, most gracious God, by the quickening power of Thy Holy Spirit, that Thy faithful people may be edified and comforted, and that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.

We ask this grace for all who love and fear Thee, and who are serving Thee whether at home or abroad, beseeching Thee so to accompany the glad tidings of salvation by Thy blessing, that the wilderness and the solitary place may be made glad, and that the desert may rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Hear us, O Lord, in heaven, Thy dwelling-place. Lift on us the light of Thy

countenance in the duties and privileges of this day; preside in our hearts by Thy grace, and do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

For Relatives and Friends.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, who hast promised to be the God of all the families of Israel, we beseech Thee to look mercifully upon us Thy servants this morning, and upon all who are dear to us, and to grant us that grace which Thou alone canst bestow.

We earnestly pray Thee to bless this house and all who are within it. Bless the members of this family in their respective positions, *parents and children*, *masters and servants*,* and make us truly Thine. May the peace of God rule in all our hearts, and may the voice of joy and thanksgiving be heard in this dwelling.

Bless our relatives. We gratefully acknowledge Thy hand in the endearing ties of social life; and we earnestly pray that these may be blessed and sanctified of Thee.

* To be omitted if inappropriate.

We ask for all with whom we are connected the blessing of Thy heavenly grace, that they may be delivered from the power of evil, accepted through the merit of Thy dear Son, and taught to serve and honour Thee.

We dare not ask for them temporal prosperity or length of days, or exemption from the ordinary trials of human life, except so far as it shall be for Thy glory and for their own everlasting welfare; but we earnestly ask that they may be Thine, saved from the power and dominion of sin, and strengthened to fulfil Thy will in their day and generation.

Bless our friends. We thank Thee for the many blessings which have flowed to us through the exercise of friendship, and we earnestly pray that our friendships may ever be pure, and in accordance with Thy will. Oh, may the endearing ties of natural affection be interwoven with those golden cords of Thy sanctuary which are not quickly broken.

We commend our dear friends to that Friend who loved us and who gave Himself for us. Grant them the saving know-

ledge of His Name; watch over and bless them; deliver them from all evil, and lead them in the way everlasting.

Bless our servants. How sacred is the relationship of master and servant, when viewed as Thine ordinance and sanctified by Thy blessing! May our servants be partakers of Thy heavenly grace, taught to know and honour Him whose service is perfect freedom, and constrained by their own happy experience to acknowledge that His yoke is easy and His burden light.

We ask Thy special blessing upon those families which are at present suffering from the visitation of Thy hand. Bless and comfort them in sickness and sorrow, in bereavement or in any adversity. Suffer not the furnace to be heated above that they are able to bear, and grant that when the trial is accomplished they may come forth as gold.

Hear us, O Lord, in these our feeble and imperfect petitions for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

For Schools and Universities.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst create man in Thine own image, endowing him with wisdom and understanding, whereby he might hold communion with Thyself, and glorify Thee in the works of Thy hands; we beseech Thee to look with compassion upon us, who have fallen from our original state of holiness and happiness, and who have departed from Thee, having our understanding darkened through the ignorance that is in us.

We bless Thee that Thou hast given Thy dear Son to be the light of the world, and hast promised that whoso followeth Him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. Give us grace, we pray Thee, so to do, and bestow upon us Thy Holy Spirit to enlighten the eyes of our understanding, and to give us a right judgment in all things.

We earnestly ask Thy blessing upon

all means of instruction for the young, that they may be taught to know and fear Thee in the morning of life, and led to serve and honour Thee all their days.

Bless our Schools. Bestow upon the teachers Thy heavenly grace, that they may discharge their onerous and important duties to the glory of Thy Name, and to the benefit of those who are entrusted to their care. Bless their pupils; graft in their young hearts the love of Thy Name; prosper them in their studies, and grant that as they increase in knowledge they may grow in grace, and remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

Bless our Universities. Give grace and wisdom to all who are in authority in them. Bless the masters of colleges, professors, tutors, and teachers, that they may set the Lord always before them, and realize the importance of the work entrusted to them, with the momentous interests which it involves. Bless those who are under instruction, that they may be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and diligently pursue their studies to the glory of Thy Name, and to the advancement of their

future usefulness in life. Save them from sin, and from those temptations to which they may be peculiarly exposed, and strengthen them to walk in the good and right way.

Give Thy blessing to the rising generation everywhere. Breathe upon them by Thy Spirit, and dispose their hearts to seek Thee, that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones polished after the similitude of a palace, and that in Thy holy providence many wise and good men may be raised up to serve Thee in Church and State, and in every department of public and private life.

Hear us in these our humble prayers; preside in our hearts by Thy heavenly grace this day, and strengthen us to walk before Thee in simplicity and godly sincerity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For Missions to the Heathen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast so loved the world as to give Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life, we beseech Thee to accept us for His sake, and to grant that, believing in Him, we may have life through His Name.

Be pleased to look upon Thy people everywhere, and to give them all spiritual blessings in Christ, that they may be rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

We specially ask Thy blessing upon Christian missionaries; upon all those who, constrained by love to the Redeemer, and moved with compassion for the souls of men, have left their country, their homes, and their friends, to preach the Gospel in heathen lands, and to proclaim to their ignorant and degraded fellow-creatures the *unsearchable* riches of Christ.

Bestow upon them, O Lord, Thy richest blessing; strengthen their faith, comfort their hearts, and preserve their minds in purity and peace amidst the abominations by which they are surrounded.

We render most humble and hearty thanks for what has already been accomplished through their instrumentality, and for the Churches planted in many heathen countries. Bless the native Christians, with their pastors and teachers, and grant that being built up in their most holy faith, and walking in the fear of God and comfort of the Holy Ghost, their numbers may be multiplied, and the Gospel extended to the regions beyond.

We acknowledge, with shame and sorrow, that we and our fathers have sinned against Thee, by neglecting our blessed Redeemer's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature; and we desire to humble ourselves before Thee, and to confess our fault. But blessed be Thy name, that although we have been slow to fulfil our duty, and the efforts which we have made come far short of *what we ought to* have done, Thou hast

been pleased to own and bless them to the conversion of many souls in heathen lands.

We praise and magnify Thy Name, that many peoples, and kindreds, and tongues, which long sat in darkness and the shadow of death, have heard the glad tidings of salvation, and that now from Greenland and Labrador, from Africa and India, from Madagascar and New Zealand, from the Islands of the South Sea, and from many distant and once inhospitable regions of the earth, there are heard songs, even glory to God for the Gospel of His grace.

Continue, we pray Thee, to prosper this great and blessed work, and hasten the day, foretold in Thy Word, when all shall know Thee, from the least even to the greatest.

Be with us, Thy servants, O Lord, in the duties and trials of this day, and grant us to live as those who are not their own, but bought with a price, that God in all things may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

For our Country.

O GOD, the King of Nations, to whom alone all power and glory do belong, we beseech Thee to give us grace to fear and honour Thee, the supreme Ruler over all, and to realize that a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom.

We earnestly entreat Thee to continue that grace and lovingkindness which Thou hast shown towards our country, and which calls for the fullest expression of our gratitude and praise. We have received great and manifold blessings at Thy hand, whereby Thou hast raised us to a very high position among the nations of the earth, and permitted the sceptre of our Sovereign to touch the utmost extremities of the globe.

We acknowledge with shame and confusion of face that we have not rendered again according to the benefit done to us, but have too often forgotten Thee, the Author and Giver of all our mercies. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, *O Lord,* but pardon our past

offences, and give us grace to repent and amend.

Be pleased to bless Thy servant, our Sovereign the Queen. God save the Queen, and grant that her throne may be established in righteousness. Bless the Prince and Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family. Bless the Ministers and Councillors of the Sovereign. Raise up for us in these times wise and patriotic men—men fearing Thee, and having at heart the best interests of their country; men who have understanding of the times to know what a Christian nation ought to do.

(*Bless the High Court of Parliament now assembled, and overrule their deliberations for Thy glory, and for the welfare of all classes of Society.)

Bring to foolishness, we beseech Thee, the counsels of ungodly men who would deny Thy providence, dishonour Thy laws, set aside Thine ordinances, and who say in their hearts, "Who is the Lord, that we should serve Him?" But be pleased to bestow Thy blessing upon those who

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* *To be* omitted if Parliament is not assembled.

desire in all acts of legislation to acknowledge Thee, and who remember that whilst righteousness exalteth a nation, sin is a reproach to any people.

Give to us, Thy servants, in our respective spheres of life, grace to fear God, to honour the Queen, to love the brotherhood, and to render to all their dues. Preserve us from selfish and unworthy motives; raise us above the spirit of party, and enable us faithfully to discharge our duties as citizens of a Christian kingdom.

Grant, O Lord, that the judgments which have fallen upon other countries may teach us righteousness, and that acknowledging our sins, and earnestly seeking Thy blessing, there may be a lengthening out of our tranquillity.

Hear us in these our humble prayers, and send us an answer in peace. Be with us in our going out and coming in this day; save us from everything that is contrary to Thy will, and lead us in the way everlasting, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For the Jews.

O GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, we bless Thee that in these last days Thou hast spoken unto us by Thy Son. Accept us, we beseech Thee, for His sake; strengthen our faith in Him, and enable us to love, honour and serve Thee with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind.

Give Thy blessing to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity; may Thy Holy Spirit rest upon them and dwell within them, that they may be ever showing forth Thy praise, and prove themselves to be a peculiar people zealous of good works.

We desire, with one accord, to plead for Thine ancient people, the seed of Abraham Thy friend, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all God blessed for ever.

O God of Abraham, God of Isaac, God

of Jacob,—the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless Israel, and fulfil Thine unchanging purpose of love towards them. Their sin has been very great, and Thou hast hid Thy face from them because of their iniquities. They have denied the Holy One and the Just, despised and rejected Thy dear Son, who came to seek and to save them, and in Thy righteous anger Thou hast cast them off, and scattered them among the nations. Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments! but in judgment be Thou pleased to remember mercy and to have compassion upon them.

Thou hast said that He who scattered Israel shall gather them,—that Thou wilt turn again their captivity, and set them in the land which Thou gavest to their fathers, and rejoice over them to do them good. Oh, hasten the time when these great and wonderful promises shall be fulfilled; pour out upon them the spirit of grace and of supplication, give them true repentance of their sin, and send from Zion the Deliverer, who shall turn away *ungodliness from* Jacob.

Arise, O Lord, plead Thine own cause. Remember Thy mercy and truth towards the house of Israel, and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Arise, and make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

We beseech Thee to bless those Societies which labour for the conversion of Israel. We thank Thee that their labours have not been in vain, but that many of Thine ancient people have been gathered into the fold of Christ. Continue to own and bless their efforts, and grant them a full reward in the day of the Lord.

O Thou who didst guide Thy people of old by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night, be pleased to bless and guide us Thy servants. Be with us this day, and through all the days of our pilgrimage; fail us not nor forsake us, but guide us by Thy counsel, and at last receive us into glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

For the Established Church, and for other Christian Churches.

O GOD, who hast purchased to Thyself an universal Church by the precious blood of Thy dear Son, mercifully look upon the same, and grant to all its members the abundant grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life, to the glory of Thy Name, and to the benefit of their fellow-men.

Bless all Christian Churches in which Thy Word is preached and the sacraments are duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance; and more especially do we ask Thy blessing upon that Church which, in Thy good providence, has been so long established in this realm. O Thou who art the head over all things to Thy Church, in whom alone all fulness dwells, bless the *Church of England*; bless her bishops,

pastors, and teachers; bless her communicants; bless her members of all ranks and degrees.

We confess, with shame and sorrow, our manifold sins and shortcomings amidst the many blessings which we have enjoyed, and the wide door of usefulness which Thou hast for so long a period set before us. Forgive, we pray Thee, the neglect of duty, pride, covetousness, love of the world, and blindness to the momentous interests intrusted to us, which have brought much and merited reproach upon us.

Bring to nothing, we beseech Thee, the designs of those who would corrupt the doctrines of our Reformed Church, and introduce again those superstitious and idolatrous practices from which our fathers were mercifully delivered. Preserve us from the assaults of those who from whatever motive would destroy our bulwarks, or whose unthankful and rebellious hearts would lead them to cast off all national acknowledgment of Thee, the Author and Giver of our manifold mercies.

We have justly merited Thy displea-

sure; but whatever chastening Thou mayest see good to send us, remove not, we beseech Thee, our Candlestick from its place, but grant that our National Church may continue to be a faithful witness for Thy truth, and that the glad tidings of salvation may be extended, through her instrumentality, to the utmost ends of the earth.

Raise up for us, we pray Thee, from time to time, pastors and teachers after Thine own heart—men fearing Thee, and constrained by the love of Christ to devote themselves to the sacred office of the ministry; and grant to all faithful labourers in Thy vineyard the spirit of power and of love, and of a sound mind.

Bless all who profess and call themselves Christians; heal by Thy grace the unhappy divisions caused through human infirmity; and grant that, amidst the trials and perplexities of these times, Thy people may be drawn nearer to Thee, and that party spirit may be forgotten in the desire to walk in love, and to keep the unity of the *spirit in the* bond of peace.

Be with us, Thy servants, O Lord, in the events of this day. Preserve us from evil, strengthen us to fulfil our duties, and prepare us for the privileges of to-morrow, that it may prove to us a day of rest and refreshment, and a season of preparation for Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

Third Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Praise for the gift of Eternal Life.—John, xvii. 1–3.

O GOD, who art the Author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom, we come before Thee this morning with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, beseeching Thee that we and all Thy people may have grace to render unto Thee holy and acceptable service this day, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We humbly acknowledge that we deserve not any good thing at Thy hand, for we and our fathers have sinned against Thee, and the wages of sin is death; so that we have justly merited the sufferings and sorrows which have come upon our fallen race.

But, O Lord, we praise and bless Thee that Thou hast not left us in our low and lost estate, but hast sent Thine only begotten Son to seek and to save us, and hast *given us in Him* the gift of eternal life, for

this is life eternal, that we might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

We are taught by Thy Holy Word that he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life; and we earnestly pray that such a measure of Thy grace may accompany the ordinances of Thy house to-day, that all who have believed in Thy dear Son may be built up on their most holy faith; and that, praying in the Holy Ghost, they may keep themselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Teach us, we humbly pray Thee, to be ever looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, that, being taught of Him, we may have an understanding to know Him that is true, and that we may abide in Him that is true, even in Thy Son Jesus Christ; for this, we are assured, is the true God and eternal life.

And, oh! look in mercy upon those who have not the Son of God, and who will not come to Him that they might have life. *Pity them,* we pray Thee, and give them

repentance to the acknowledging of Thy truth; bless to them the preaching of Thy word to-day, and grant that, being pricked in their hearts, many such may ask what they must do to be saved, and have grace given them to turn from all unrighteousness to the service of Thee the one true and living God.

We earnestly commend unto Thee all who shall minister Thy word or conduct the services of Thy house to-day, beseeching Thee to sustain and strengthen them from on high. Bless all Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, and make them instrumental in raising up many to serve and honour Thee.

Look mercifully on the sick and dying, and on all who are unable to come up to Thy house this day. Be with them in their retirement, most gracious God, and enable them to realize that Thou art the Father and the Portion of all who trust in Thee.

Hear us, in these our humble petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

For Grace to glorify God.—John, xvii. 4, 5.

MOST HOLY GOD, who hast preserved us through the night and brought us in safety to the beginning of this day, we desire to thank Thee for Thy goodness, and to humble ourselves before Thee for all our sins.

Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, O Lord, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified, but deal with us according to the riches of Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy.

We bless Thee that Thou hast been pleased to reveal Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, calling us from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God. Oh, give us grace to live worthy of this calling, to do Thy will, and in all things to serve and honour Thee.

Grant us to be strong in faith, that we may not dishonour Thee through unbelief; to have our conversation in heaven, that we may not set our affection on things

which are on the earth, and to be ever watchful and prayerful that our great adversary may not get the advantage of us, but that, living in Thy faith and fear, we may glorify Thee in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

Thou hast appointed our respective positions and spheres of usefulness in life, and Thou hast intrusted us with such talents as seem good in Thy sight, for which we must render an account at last. Oh, give us grace to realize this, that, acknowledging Thy hand in all things, we may ever live to Thee; and that, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we may do all to the glory of Thy Name, that so, when the hour of death approaches, we may feel that through Thy grace and in our humble measure we have glorified Thee on the earth, and finished the work which Thou gavest us to do.

We ask the like blessing for our dear relatives and friends, that whatever their circumstances or trials may be, whether it shall please Thee to grant them days of *prosperity or to* visit them with the stern

discipline of adversity, they may set the Lord always before them, and serve Thee in all things.

And, O Lord, who hast purchased to Thyself an universal Church by the precious blood of Thy dear Son, mercifully look upon the same, and grant to Thy people everywhere grace to glorify Thee, and to show forth Thy praise. We acknowledge with shame and sorrow that Thy Name has too often been dishonoured by those who profess and call themselves Christians, through their many inconsistencies, their carnal divisions, and acts of conformity to the world; but we beseech Thee to pardon these their offences, for Thy dear Son's sake, and so to shed abroad in their hearts the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that they may be constrained to live more in harmony with Thy will; that God in all things may be glorified, through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

For preservation from the World, and deliverance from Evil.—John, xvii. 11, 15.

MOST HOLY GOD, who hast been pleased to manifest Thy Name to us by Thy beloved Son, and to give unto us Thy word, we beseech Thee to look mercifully upon us, and to grant that Thy will may be accomplished in us in all things.

Thou hast called Thy people to come out and be separate from the world which lieth in wickedness, that they may be a holy and peculiar people unto Thyself, ever waiting upon Thee, ready to obey Thy will, and seeking, through Thy grace, to turn many unto righteousness.

Grant that this Thy holy purpose may be fulfilled in us, Thy servants. Enable us to realize that Christ gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the *will of God* and our Father; and having

this always in remembrance, may we watch and keep ourselves unspotted from the world, seeing that all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life—is not of the Father, but is of the world; and whilst the world is passing away, and the lust thereof, oh, grant that we may be of those who do the will of God, and who shall abide for ever.

We are exposed to many dangers, and liable to many temptations, through the corruption of our nature, our manifold infirmities, and the power and subtilty of our great adversary; but Thou art able to succour and defend us, and Thou hast promised Thy Divine assistance to them that ask it.

We do most earnestly ask it, O God. We beseech Thee to keep us from the evil, to strengthen us to endure temptation, and to stand against all the wiles of the devil, that Thy Name may be glorified, and the greatness of Thy power manifested in us.

We supplicate these blessings for all *who love* and fear Thee. They are Thine,

O Lord, and therefore we entreat Thee to save and defend them. Separate them more and more from the world; draw them to Thyself through the quickening power of Thy Spirit; teach them to fight the good fight of faith, and grant them to be more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

And now, O Lord, be with us, we humbly pray Thee, throughout this day; keep us in Thy faith and fear, and hold up our goings in Thy paths that our footsteps slip not.

May each day of our earthly pilgrimage find us abiding in Christ, walking humbly with our God, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, that so at last we may be found meet for Thine everlasting kingdom.

Hear us in these our imperfect petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Praise for the Word.—John, xvii. 8, 14.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we come before Thee this morning, in the name of Thy dear Son, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, but placing all our trust in Him, and pleading at Thy throne that one perfect and complete offering, oblation, and satisfaction which He has made for us.

Thou hast kept us through the night; keep us also, by Thy providence, through the day, and give us grace to walk before Thee in simplicity and sincerity, not turning to the right hand nor to the left.

Amidst the moral and spiritual darkness which sin has brought upon our race, we adore and bless Thee for that most perfect revelation of Thy will which Thou hast given us in the Holy Scriptures; and we pray Thee to grant us grace to meditate therein day and night, and to make them the sole rule of our faith and practice.

We believe that all Holy Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and we desire to reverence it as such, taking it as a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, and earnestly seeking of Thee grace to hide it in our hearts, that it may dwell in us richly in all wisdom.

Thou hast promised the gift of Thy Holy Spirit to guide Thy people into all truth, and to show them things to come, and we earnestly plead that promise at Thy throne, beseeching Thee so to shed abroad in our hearts Thy Holy Spirit, that our understanding may be more and more fully opened to understand the Scriptures, and that under His sacred teaching we may be saved from error, and guided into all truth.

Preserve Thy people everywhere, O Lord, from the sin of corrupting Thy Word through the doctrines and commandments of men, or of allowing its inspired authority to be virtually set aside by human philosophy or oppositions of science, falsely so called; and grant that in the great conflict of these last times we *may ever remem*ber that the sword of the

Spirit is the Word of God, and that our safety lies not in having recourse to carnal weapons, but in using aright that spiritual armour which Thou hast provided for us.

We desire to commend unto Thee those who are engaged in revising the text of the Holy Scriptures, or in translating them into foreign tongues. The work is great indeed, and we ask for them a double portion of Thy Spirit, that they may be saved from self-confidence, preserved from the wisdom of the world, and richly endued with grace and wisdom from on high.

Grant to them, most gracious God, such a measure of Thy blessing, that through their labours the Word of the Lord may continue to have free course, and be glorified.

Hear us in heaven, O Lord, and answer us in mercy for Thy blessed Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

For Sanctification through the Truth.—John, xvii. 17.

HOLY, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come, we present ourselves before Thee this morning with reverence and godly fear, for Thou art infinitely pure and holy, whilst we are sinful, dust and ashes. Accept us, we pray Thee, through the merit of Thy dear Son, and grant us pardon and peace through His most precious blood.

We have indeed erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep, and there is no health in us; we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts; and have offended against Thy holy laws; but we bless Thee that in Thy compassion Thou hast provided a great ransom and propitiation for us, and that having raised up Thy Son Jesus, Thou hast sent Him to

bless us by turning away every one of us from our iniquities.

Turn us, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins; create in us clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within us.

We know that without holiness no man shall see the Lord, and we beseech Thee therefore to make us holy. *Sanctify us through Thy truth, Thy word is truth;* and grant us such a measure of Thy Spirit's presence in our souls, that our wills may be subdued, our affections purified, and that we may walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Give us, we pray Thee, tenderness of conscience, that we may watch against the deceitfulness of sin; and according to Thy most gracious promise, put Thy laws into our hearts, and write them in our minds, that we may know that we are Thy people, chosen to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Lord, visit the hearts of Thy people *everywhere* with the presence of Thy Holy

Spirit, who is the Sanctifier of all the elect people of God; make them holy that they may be happy, and that they may please Thee both in body and soul, and proceed from strength to strength until they shall come to Thine everlasting kingdom.

Be with us, Thy servants, O Lord, in all things this day. Preserve us from evil, strengthen us to fulfil our duties, and lead us in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake.

Thou knowest how weak we are, and that we are exposed to manifold temptations, but our trust is in Him who was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin; believing that He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one; for which cause He is not ashamed to call us brethren.

Hear and help, and fulfil Thy blessed will in us for His sake, O Lord, who is our strength and our Redeemer.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For Unity.—John, xvii. 20, 21.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we draw near unto Thee this morning, to render thanks for the mercies of the night, and to commit ourselves anew to Thy care this day. Our voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

Thou hast dispelled the darkness of the night, and hast caused the light of day to return in due season. Oh, grant that the moral darkness in which this world has been so long involved may speedily be dispersed, and that all may rejoice in the rays of the Sun of Righteousness, and be constrained to walk in the light of the Lord.

Thou hast called Thy people to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and hast revealed it to be Thy will concerning them *that they all may be one, even as Thou* and Thy beloved Son are

one, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Him.

We acknowledge with shame and sorrow the many strifes and carnal divisions which have separated Thy people, grieving Thy Holy Spirit, hindering Thy will concerning them, and giving occasion to the adversary to blaspheme. Pardon these great offences, O Lord; enter not into judgment with Thy servants, we entreat Thee, but deal with us according to the multitude of Thy mercies.

We earnestly ask for Thy people everywhere more of the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may have that mind in them which was also in Christ Jesus, and that, forgetting all minor differences, they may increase and abound in love one towards another and towards all men, to the glory of Thy Name, their own happiness and growth in grace, and the benefit of their fellow-men.

Give us grace, we beseech Thee, to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, with all lowliness and meekness, *with long-suffering*, forbearing one another

in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Enable us ever to realize that there is one body and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all; and remembering this, may we feel that it becomes us to be no more children, tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine, but that speaking the truth in love, we should seek to grow up into Him in all things which is the head, even Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

O our God, incline Thine ear and hear us in these our humble petitions, which we ask in the name of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

For Preparation to be with Christ.—John, xvii. 24.

O RIGHTEOUS FATHER, whom the world knoweth not, but who hast revealed Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, we beseech Thee to receive us graciously this morning, and to lift the light of Thy countenance upon us.

Prepare us, through Thy grace, for discharging the duties of this day; grant that we may endeavour to do Thy will from our hearts, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and in all things to serve and glorify Thee.

Make this, we pray Thee, a day of preparation to Thy people for the duties and privileges of to-morrow; and, above all, may it prove so to those whose office it is to conduct the services of Thy house and to minister Thy Holy Word. Be with them, O Lord, in their meditations and prayers this day; and, as they wait upon Thee for their message, be pleased to shed abroad in *them abundantly* the grace of Thy Holy

Spirit; for we know that it is not by human might nor power that Thy work shall be accomplished, but by the Spirit of the Lord of Hosts.

Amidst our present privileges, which are so great and undeserved, we thank Thee for the knowledge which Thou hast also imparted to us concerning things unseen; for Thou hast assured us that when absent from the body we shall be present with the Lord, beholding His glory and serving Him day and night in His temple. Make us meet for this, we humbly entreat Thee; and grant that, dying daily unto sin and living unto righteousness, we may be found at last ready to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better.

May the prospect of being with the Lord comfort and strengthen the dying, and prepare them to walk through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil. May the hope of the heavenly rest prove a source of true consolation to the afflicted, to such as may be ready to sink under their burdens, and to those whose souls are discouraged because of the way.

Give to all these grace to thank God

and take courage, knowing that the time is short, that all earthly sorrows shall soon be over, and all tears wiped away from the eyes of Thy people.

Be pleased, O merciful Lord, to pardon us wherein we have erred in the week that is now about to close, and spare us, if it be Thy will, to see the rest of Thy holy day; above all, fit us for the rest above, and make us ready to lay aside this earthly tabernacle, and to join the spirits of just men made perfect, there to wait in joy and felicity till the number of Thine elect shall be accomplished, and the Lord Jesus shall come again to be glorified in His saints and admired in all them that believe; when He shall change these vile bodies, and make them like unto His own glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

Hear us in these our humble prayers and supplications, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

Fourth Week.

SUNDAY MORNING.

For the Holy Spirit.

O GOD, the King of Glory, who hast exalted Thine only Son, Jesus Christ, with great triumph to Thy kingdom in heaven, and hast promised that Thou wilt give Thy Holy Spirit for His sake to them that ask Thee, we beseech Thee to make us more and more partakers of that inestimable benefit.

We believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, and we earnestly desire His quickening influences in our souls, that we may be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and that walking in *newness of* life we may glorify Thee upon

the earth, and finally be partakers of that eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began.

Thou hast chosen Thy people to salvation, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth. Oh, shed abundantly in our hearts His sanctifying grace, that we may be holy, and that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we may live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world, looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Thou hast not left Thy people comfortless amidst the trials of this mortal life, but hast said that the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, shall be with them. Oh, grant that we may ever be comforted and upheld by Him, that our faith fail not amidst the manifold temptations and sorrows of our earthly pilgrimage.

Thou hast promised that the Spirit of Truth shall be with Thy people, to guide them into all truth. Be it unto Thy servants, O Lord, according to Thy word. *Enlighten the* eyes of our understanding,

save us from error, and give us by Thy Spirit a right judgment in all things.

O God the Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier and Comforter, the Guide and Teacher of the flock of God, which He has purchased with His own blood, be pleased to breathe upon them all to-day, in every church and in every land. Be present in their solemn assemblies, and assist them in their prayers and supplications, their praises and thanksgivings, that they may offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Give effect, we pray Thee, to the ministry of the Word. Be with those who speak, and with those who shall hear; and let not that blessed ordinance be in vain, but make it instrumental, by Thy power, in building up Thy people on their most holy faith, and in converting sinners unto Thee.

Be pleased to bless all Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, and grant that the good seed thus sown may produce much fruit to the praise and glory of God. Be with those who shall visit the sick and dying,

the widows and fatherless in their affliction. Bless them, and make them a blessing.

We are thankful; O Lord God, for the precious means of grace which we enjoy; but we know that it is only by the power of Thy Holy Spirit that these shall prove effectual to the great end in view. Oh, grant us more of Thy Spirit's presence, and according to Thy promise pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; pour Thy Spirit upon Thy people, that, being full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, they may live to Thy praise, and accomplish what Thou wouldest have done.

Hear us, O Thou faithful Promiser, and grant us the desire of our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

For Grace to do the will of God, and to keep ourselves unspotted from the World.

O GOD of all grace, who hast revealed Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, we beseech Thee to look upon us, and to bless us this morning for His sake. Thou hast kept us through the night, be pleased to keep us also through this day; preserve us from all evil, show us Thy ways, teach us Thy paths, lead us in Thy truth, and teach us to wait on Thee all the day.

We bless Thee for that full and free forgiveness of sins which Thou hast provided for us through the most precious blood of Thy dear Son, and for the grace which Thou hast promised to all who believe in Him, that they may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called, and live to the praise and glory of Thy Name.

O God, we earnestly entreat Thee, for His sake, to teach us to do Thy will, from day to day, and from hour to hour, during the little time appointed for us here on

earth. Save us from being blinded by our own wills, through the deceitfulness of sin. Preserve us from adopting any standard of duty save that which is revealed in Thy Word, and grant that through Thy heavenly grace we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Thou hast called us to the knowledge of Thy Name in the midst of a world that lieth in wickedness; and Thou hast taught us by Thy Word that the friendship of this world is enmity with God, for all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life—is not of the Father, but is of the world. Teach us also, we pray Thee, how to keep our garments unspotted from the world, that, whilst the world passeth away and the lust thereof, we may have grace given us to do the will of God, and so abide for ever.

Holy Father, keep Thy true and faithful people from the spirit of the world, and grant that being constrained by the love of Christ, they may in all things follow Him, who gave Himself for us, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God.

Give to all who love and fear Thee, O Lord, a right judgment in all things, that they may not dishonour Thee by their own eccentricities, nor indulge in sinful conformity to the world, but seek to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, and to prove what is that good, and perfect, and acceptable will of God.

Hasten, O Lord, that happy time foretold by Thy Word, when there shall be no more rebellion against Thee in this fair and beauteous world which we inhabit, but when all shall know Thee, from the least even to the greatest—when Thy will shall be done in earth even as it is in heaven, and when Thy blessing shall descend like rain upon the mown grass, and as showers that water the earth.

Eternal and unchangeable God, be pleased to accomplish this Thy revealed purpose, and to do for us and for Thy people exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

For Joy in the Lord.

O GOD, our refuge and strength, who hast watched over and preserved us through the night, we come before Thee this morning in the Name of Him whom Thou hearest always, rendering unfeigned thanks for Thy mercies towards us, and earnestly asking the continuance of Thy goodness and loving-kindness.

Grant, most holy God, that all the days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage may be spent in the fear of Thy holy Name, and in harmony with Thy will, that we may be found at last prepared, through grace, for being admitted to Thy presence, to serve Thee day and night for ever.

We bless Thee that we are permitted to know those glad tidings of great joy which have announced to our fallen race a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. We desire to receive Him with thankful hearts, and, believing in Him, to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

We are exhorted in Thy Holy Word to *rejoice in the* Lord alway, and we earnestly

ask of Thee grace to do so, that although alway sorrowing because of our many sins and infirmities, we may be alway rejoicing in His power and willingness to save us.

Father of mercies, be pleased to look graciously upon Thy people amidst their trials and sorrows, in their days of adversity and seasons of affliction. Thou knowest that they are often greatly cast down, often much discouraged, often in heaviness through manifold temptations; but, oh! enable them to look upward and to rejoice; fill them with all joy and peace in believing, and give them to realize that, whatever their trials and sorrows may be, the joy of the Lord is their strength.

Thou hast assured us that though weeping may endure for a night, joy cometh in the morning. May this blessed hope comfort our hearts, and strengthen us to pass through intervening clouds in faith and patience, waiting for the appointed time when the day shall dawn and the shadows flee away, and when they who now sow in tears shall reap in joy.

We have indeed much cause to rejoice *in God our* Saviour, for Thy thoughts to

usward are very precious, and we know that Thy purpose shall stand, that Thy kingdom shall come, and the whole earth shall be filled with Thy glory. We know, moreover, that not one thing shall fail of all the good things which Thou hast spoken concerning Thy people. Forbid, then, O Lord, that we should dishonour Thee through our unbelieving fears; but grant us to rejoice in Christ Jesus, and to serve Thee with all our hearts and with all our souls, with all our strength and with all our mind.

Be with us this day, most gracious God and Father, in the discharge of our duty and in bearing our appointed trials. May we have grace given us to do Thy will, to keep our garments unspotted from the world, and so to live that we may at last render our account with joy and not with grief.

Hear us in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, through the mediation of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

For Preservation in the Truth, and Deliverance from Error.

O LORD GOD of Truth, we come before Thee this morning with thankful hearts, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

We bless Thee that Thou hast called us to the knowledge of Thy great and glorious Name, through faith in Him, that we may serve Thee with perfect hearts, and worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Give us grace to do so we earnestly beseech Thee, that we may glorify Thee, and offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Thou hast given to us Thy word, to be the rule of our faith and practice,—a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our paths. We praise and bless Thee for it, for the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure,

making wise the simple; the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. But, O Lord, we need Thy Divine assistance that we may rightly understand and profit by thy word. Grant us, then, we pray Thee, the gracious presence and teaching of Thy Holy Spirit, to save us from error, to give us a right judgment in all things, and to guide us into all truth. Oh, lead us in Thy truth, and teach us, for Thou art the God of our salvation, and on Thee would we wait all the day.

Whilst Thou hast given to us Thy word Thou hast warned us that the enemy will sow his tares, and Thou hast taught us that there must be heresies amongst us, that they who are approved may be made manifest. Make us watchful, we entreat Thee, against these snares, and mercifully save us from them.

Preserve us and all our dear friends from those superstitious practices leading to the blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits of Romanism, whereby Thy name and Thy truth have been so greatly dishonoured,

and the souls of men irreparably injured. Save us also from the presumptuous and perilous speculations of Rationalism, by which so many have been turned aside from the way of truth, to the ruin of their souls.

Oh, keep us in the truth, give us grace that we may hold it fast, and grant that we may not turn to the right hand or to the left. Heavenly Shepherd! preserve the lambs of Thy flock in these perilous times. Bless those who seek Thee early,—all loving and candid inquirers after truth, and give Thine angels charge concerning them, that they may be kept from the errors which are abroad, and led to desire the sincere milk of the word, that they may grow thereby.

Bless Thy ministers, that in these last days they may prove themselves to be workmen needing not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth, and ready to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Protect and bless those who have gone *forth to other* lands to expose Romish or

Heathen errors and superstitions, and to preach the truth as it is in Jesus. Be with them in their arduous and important labours, and make them instrumental in turning many to the way of truth and righteousness.

We present these our humble prayers and supplications through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

For Power and Wisdom to Confess Christ before Men.

LORD of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things; graft in our hearts the love of Thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same.

Thou alone, O Lord, canst give strength and power to Thy people, and enable them under all circumstances to serve and honour Thee. Grant us this great blessing, we humbly pray Thee, that believing with the heart unto righteousness we may ever be ready to make confession with the mouth unto salvation, and meekly to show unto all men whose we are, and whom we serve.

Be pleased, O Lord, to endue Thy people more and more with power from on high, that amidst their manifold infirmities and temptations they may have grace to confess their Lord and Saviour before *men, and* wisdom to abstain from anything

which might prove dishonouring to Thee, or give occasion to the enemy to blaspheme.

Make us all, by Thy grace, wise as serpents, but harmless as doves; save us from the spirit of fear, so unbecoming in those who have the Eternal God for their refuge, and bestow upon us the spirit of power and of love, and of a sound mind, that we may be strong and very courageous, live to Thy glory, testify boldly to Thy truth, and walk in wisdom toward those who are without.

Be pleased, O merciful Lord, to look upon our country, and to raise up for us men of faith and power to guide the counsels of this nation, and to act with a single eye to Thy glory, and with an honest desire to promote the best interests of all classes of society.

Thou hast, indeed, been favourable to our land; Thou hast blest us with the light of Thy truth; granted to us free and Christian institutions; bestowed upon us a large measure of prosperity; raised us to a high position of power among the nations; *and hast ofttimes* preserved us in peace

whilst other countries have been desolated by war. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Thy Name be the praise! Oh, give us grace to prize these great and manifold mercies as we ought to do, and to cherish in our hearts a grateful sense of all Thy benefits. Let not our past unthankfulness, or our national sins and wickedness provoke Thee to cast us off, or to visit us with Thy judgments; but pardon us, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee, and raise up for us counsellors and statesmen who may seek to fulfil Thy will, and to be guided in all things by Thy word.

Be with us, Thy servants, O Lord, in the business and trials of this day, and let Thy strength be perfected in our weakness. Amidst present duties teach us to set our affection on things above, and grant that walking uprightly we may walk surely and go on our way rejoicing.

We humbly ask these blessings and all things that may be profitable for us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

For Patience and Perseverance.

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose mercies are new every morning, be pleased to look graciously upon us Thy servants, who come before Thee in the Name of Thy dear Son to render thanks for the watchful care which Thou hast extended over us during the night, and to supplicate Thy blessing for this day.

Teach us, O Lord, so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, and grant that we may live not unto ourselves, but unto Thee, ever seeking to walk before Thee in simplicity and godly sincerity.

Through the glorious Gospel of Thy Son, Thou hast called us with an holy calling, to come out and be separate from the world, which lieth in wickedness, to become Thy children by faith in Christ Jesus, and to adorn the doctrine of our God and Saviour in all things. Give us grace and power so to do, and teach us how to run *with patience the* race that is set before us,

ever looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We feel, O Lord, that through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the Christian race; but we pray Thee to raise up Thy power and come among us, and with great might succour us, that we may give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, and prove ourselves to be followers of those who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises.

We are weak and liable to err, and are easily discouraged because of the way; but we look up to Thee for Thy heavenly grace. Fail us not, neither forsake us, O God of our salvation, but uphold us by Thy power, and teach us to possess our souls in patience, knowing that all things are ordered by Thy hand, and that even the most afflictive dispensations shall work together for good to them that love Thee, to them that are the called according to Thy purpose.

When we remember, O Lord, the fiery trials which have been appointed for Thy people, and the great tribulation through which many of them have passed, we are ashamed at the weakness of our faith, and

at the impatience which we have too often manifested under trial.

Forgive us, most gracious God, and so strengthen us by Thy heavenly grace that in all our chastenings we may recognise Thy fatherly hand, and that the trial of our faith may work patience, being assured that Thou dealest with us as with sons, and chastenest us not for Thy pleasure but for our profit, that we may be partakers of Thy holiness.

We know not, O Lord, what trials may yet be before us, but we know that Thy grace is sufficient for us; and we beseech Thee to grant that it may prove to be so in our experience, enabling us to endure unto the end, and to hold fast that which we have received, that no man take our crown.

Hear us, O God of patience and consolation, in these our humble supplications and prayers. Incline Thine ear and hear us; give Thine angels charge concerning us, and grant us grace ever to laud and magnify Thy glorious Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

For the Second Coming of our Lord.

O GOD, whose blessed Son has ascended into the heavens, there to sit at Thy right hand until His foes are made His footstool, and who has promised that He will come again to the complete salvation of all who have believed and trusted in Him, be pleased to look mercifully upon us Thy servants, who desire to cherish this blessed hope, and to be always like men who wait for their Lord.

Give us grace, O Lord, to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and to have our conversation in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, that when He shall appear in power and great glory we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

Oh, grant this grace to Thy dear people throughout all the world. Let not that day *come upon them* unawares, but may they be

atchful and prayerful, having their loins
rt and their lamps burning, and ever ready
welcome the midnight cry, 'Behold, the
ridegroom cometh; go ye forth to meet
im.'

Pity, O Lord, the unbelieving and un-
repared; have compassion on those who
y in their hearts, 'My Lord delayeth His
ming,' and who make this an excuse for
ntinuing in carelessness and sin. Be mer-
ful to the scoffers who walk after their
wn lusts and say, 'Where is the promise
His coming? for since the fathers fell
leep all things continue as they were from
e beginning of the creation;' give them
pentance to the acknowledging of Thy
uth, ere the day of grace shall close, and
e day of righteous judgment shall over-
ke them.

Let it please Thee, O Lord, to remem-
er Thine ancient people. Oh, give repent-
ce unto Israel, and the forgiveness of
eir sins. Turn again their captivity, and
t them in the land which Thou gavest to
eir fathers; pour upon them the spirit of
ace and of supplication, and prepare them

to say, 'Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.'

We believe, O Lord, that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Give us grace to walk as children of the light and of the day, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet the hope of salvation; for Thou hast not appointed Thy people unto wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We wait for the time when the Lord Jesus shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, when the dead in Christ shall rise first, and when we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so be for ever with the Lord.

Lord Jesus, come quickly; and grant that we and all Thy people may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in Thine eternal and everlasting glory.

Be with us, Lord, this day. How pre-

cious is each day, and how important the work appointed to be done! Give us grace to do it, and so to live that in the events of daily life we may serve and honour Thee, and have at last an entrance ministered unto us abundantly to the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

EVENING PRAYERS.

OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst us, and remain with us always. Amen.

EVENING PRAYERS.

First Week.

SUNDAY EVENING.

For the Divine Blessing upon the Ordinances of Religion.

GOD of love, who hast blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ, we approach Thy throne of grace with the deepest reverence this evening, desiring to render unto Thee most humble and hearty thanks for the religious privileges which we have this day enjoyed, and earnestly praying that they may be followed by Thy blessing.

We have been permitted to go up to Thy House, to worship with Thy people, to hear Thy holy word,* *to wait upon Thee at*

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* To be omitted if inappropriate.

Thy Table, and by prayer and supplication to commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, to Thy most gracious care and protection.

Grant, we beseech Thee, that these precious means of grace may not have been bestowed on us in vain, but make them instrumental, through Thy blessing, in building us up on our most holy faith, in strengthening us to fulfil our duties, and to resist the manifold temptations to which we are exposed, that we may be the better prepared to run with patience the race that is set before us, and be found at last meet to enter upon the rest that remaineth for Thy people.

Bestow Thy heavenly grace, O Lord upon all who have enjoyed Thine ordinances this day, and grant that being rooted and built up in Christ, they may live to the glory of Thy Name, and to the benefit of their fellow-men, that so they may adorn the doctrine of their God and Saviour in all things.

Follow with Thy special blessing, we *pray Thee*, the preaching of the Gospel

throughout the world, and grant that many who have hitherto lived in carelessness or in sin may be quickened thereby, led to seek Thee with all their hearts, constrained to take up their cross and follow Christ, and to believe in Him to the saving of their souls.

Look graciously upon those who have been prevented by sickness, or by any other necessary cause, from coming up to Thy House, and from joining in the prayers and praises of Thy people. Be with them in their retirement, comfort them in their trials, supply their wants from Thine inexhaustible fulness, and grant them at last a joyful issue out of all their afflictions.

And now, O Lord, receive us into Thy gracious care and keeping this night. Preserve us from all evil; sanctify and bless us, both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, and prepare us by refreshing rest for the duties of another day, if it be Thy will that we shall enter upon it.

We know that our earthly sabbaths *will soon be* over, and we entreat Thee to

grant that we may not have enjoyed them in vain, but that through Thy grace we may be found meet to enter upon that everlasting Sabbath for which Thy Church is waiting. Grant this, O Lord, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

For True Repentance.

MOST Holy God, who hast kept us through this day, provided for all our wants, preserved us from many dangers, and brought us to its close in peace, we present ourselves before Thee this evening to render thanks for these Thy mercies, and to humble ourselves before Thee on account of our manifold sins and wickedness.

O Thou who hast exalted Thy dear Son, with Thy right hand, to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to His people and the remission of their sins, be pleased to bestow on us the Spirit of grace and of supplication, and to increase in us that godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.

Give us to see, more and more, the purity and spirituality of Thy law, for the law is holy, and the commandment holy, *and just, and* good. Affect our hearts with

penitential sorrow for our many transgressions of it, and according to Thy most gracious promise, be pleased to put Thy law in our hearts, and to write Thy commandments in our minds, that we may be Thy people, and walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Grant us grace to look on Him whom we have pierced, and to mourn, as we realize all that He has done and suffered for us.

Was He wounded for *our* transgressions and bruised for *our* iniquities? Was it for *us* that it pleased the Lord to bruise Him and to put Him to grief? Did He bear *our* sins in His own body on the tree? And shall we think lightly of sin, or act as if it were a small thing to transgress the commandments of our God? Forbid it, O Lord, we humbly beseech Thee. Create in us new and contrite hearts, and give us grace to walk humbly before Thee, ever cherishing a deep sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin.

We desire earnestly to plead for others —for those who profess and call themselves *Christians*, but who have not experienced

repentance unto life, and who virtually say that they have no sin, deceiving themselves, and showing that the truth is not in them.

O breathe upon them by Thy Spirit; convince them of sin; awaken them to a sense of their guilt and danger; show them the exalted purity of Thy law, and grant them grace to humble themselves under Thy mighty hand, that they may confess their sins unto Thee, and receive through Thy mercy perfect remission and forgiveness.

And now, O Lord, deal graciously with us Thy servants this night. Suffer us not to lie down upon our beds with any unforgiven sin upon our conscience, but give us true repentance, and enable us to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Hear us in these our humble prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Increase of Faith.

O GOD, who keepest covenant and mercy with them that fear Thee, and hast laid up of Thy goodness for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men, be pleased to look upon us Thy servants who have been preserved by Thy providence through the cares and duties of another day, and grant us Thy blessing this night.

Thou hast told us in Thy Holy Word that without faith it is impossible to please Thee; give us, then, most gracious God, that most precious gift of faith, that we may be accepted of Thee, and that our hearts being purified thereby, we may please Thee in all things, and be fruitful in every good word and work.

We bless and adore Thee that Thou *hast so* loved the world as to give Thine *only* begotten Son, that whosoever be-

lieveth in Him may not perish, but have everlasting life. Lord, we believe, help Thou our unbelief, and enable us to behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world, to the saving of our souls.

Thou hast been pleased to ordain that the just shall live by his faith; we beseech Thee then to increase our faith, that the life which we now live in the flesh may be by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us, and that continually mortifying all our evil and corrupt affections we may daily proceed in all virtue and godliness of living.

Thou knowest that our nature is weak, that we are surrounded by many dangers, and exposed to the fiery darts of the wicked one; then let it please Thee to strengthen us by Thy Spirit to fight the good fight of faith, and to lay hold on eternal life, that so in the end we may be more than conquerors, through Him that loved us.

We ask these blessings for all who love and fear Thy Name, that they may be *strong in faith* giving glory to God, and

that, sustained by Thy mighty power, they may endure unto the end, and know by experience that this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

And, O most gracious God, as faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God, be pleased so to accompany the ministry of Thy Word with the presence and grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that many may be quickened thereby, and enabled to believe to the saving of their souls.

Hear us in these our humble prayers and supplications. Pardon wherein we have erred this day; watch over us this night, and over all who are dear to us. Give Thy holy angels charge concerning us, and grant that all the days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage may be spent in Thy faith and fear, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Advancement in personal Religion.

O GOD, we approach Thee this evening in the name of Thine only begotten Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.

We desire with all simplicity and sincerity to believe and trust in Him, and we earnestly ask of Thee grace to enable us to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, by dying daily unto sin and living unto righteousness.

Save us, we pray Thee, from the guilt of presuming on Thy forgiving love, or of turning the grace of God into licentiousness, and teach us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.

Thou hast said that Thy people shall be all righteous, and Thou hast commanded every one that nameth the name of Christ to depart from iniquity; oh, grant

that this Thy will may be fulfilled in us, and so strengthen us by Thy power, that we may serve Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

We would ever bear in memory that although accepted in Christ and justified freely for His sake, Thy people have a sinful nature to contend against, and evil passions to subdue, and that it is Thy will that they should daily put off the old man with his evil deeds, and put on the new man, which, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. O give *us* grace so to do, and shed abroad Thy Holy Spirit in our hearts, that our wills may be subdued to Thy will, that our tempers may be sanctified, and that we may be enabled constantly to overcome all our evil passions and sinful affections.

We desire, through Thy divine assistance, to maintain a holy watchfulness over ourselves, that we may walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil, and having our conversation in heaven, from whence we are looking for our Lord.

We are taught by Thy word that the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. Grant us thus to proceed from strength to strength, that growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we may be found at last meet for the inheritance of Thy saints in light.

And whilst we seek to forget the things which are behind, and to reach forth unto those things which are before, may we ever hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast to the end, and so run the race that is before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith, that when death approaches we may be found in Him, not having our own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

O God of Peace, sanctify us wholly, and may our whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For the Grace of Love.

O GOD, who hast manifested Thy great love to us by sending Thine only begotten Son into the world to be the propitiation for our sins, be pleased to look upon us and bless us this evening for His sake, and to shed abroad the grace of Thy Holy Spirit in our hearts and minds.

We are taught by Thy word that whosoever loveth is born of God, and that whosoever loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. O grant us this evidence of our adoption and sonship; enable us to love Thee supremely, and to consecrate to Thee the best affections of our hearts, that we may delight ourselves in the Lord, and be able to say with Thy servant of old time, *Whom have we in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that we desire beside Thee.*

Give us grace, we beseech Thee, to *cultivate* feelings of love towards all who

fear Thy Name, and who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and to strive at all times to promote unity and brotherly kindness amongst them.

We desire to humble ourselves before Thee at the remembrance of those strifes and divisions which exist amongst many who profess and call themselves Christians; save us, we pray Thee, from any measure of participation in them, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee.

Breathe upon Thy people, O God, by Thy Holy Spirit, and so draw them to Thyself, that they may forget their unhappy and sinful divisions, and be constrained by love towards Thee to love one another with a pure heart fervently, that all men may acknowledge that they are Thine by the love which they have one towards another.

And, O God of love, who willest not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, give to us and to Thy *people everywhere* such feelings of tender-

ness and compassion towards others, that we may seek to do good to all men; to impress upon them the value of the soul, to warn them of the guilt and evil consequences of sin, and to lead them to that fountain so freely opened for sin and for all uncleanness.

Make us thus, O Lord, the salt of the earth, and the light of the world, that we may be useful to our fellow-men in our day and generation, and that increasing and abounding in love one toward another, and towards all men, our hearts may be established unblamable in holiness before God, even the Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Hear us in these our humble prayers and supplications. Pardon wherein we have erred this day accept our thanks for Thy manifold mercies, and receive us into Thy gracious care and protection this night, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

For Christian Fruitfulness.

O GOD, who hast brought us to the close of this day in peace, be pleased to accept our evening sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise, and to grant us to retire to rest with Thy blessing.

Thy mercies are new every morning, and Thy tender mercies every evening; and whilst day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night teacheth knowledge of Thee, we earnestly pray that we may not receive these tokens of Thy goodness and loving-kindness in vain, but that we may be enabled to live to Thee, and ever to present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in Thy sight.

We are assured that Thou art glorified when Thy people bring forth much fruit, and we beseech Thee to bestow upon us such a measure of Thy heavenly grace that we may be enabled so to do.

Grant, blessed Lord, that strengthened

inwardly by Thy power, we may add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity — that these things being in us and abounding, we may not be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thou hast entrusted to each of us some talent to be used for Thy glory, and to be accounted for at the appearing of our Lord. Forbid that we should prove unprofitable servants, but grant us grace to devote ourselves, our time and our talents, to Thy service and to the benefit of our fellow-men, that so at last we may render our account with joy, and not with grief.

We live in days when Thou hast put into the hearts of Thy people to engage in many works of faith and labours of love; give us grace to take part in these works of Christian philanthropy, that we too may make our calling and election sure, and bring forth much fruit to the glory of Thy *Name.*

We ask this blessing for all who love and fear Thee, that they may prove themselves to be the true disciples of the Lord Jesus, and that their light may so shine before men that others seeing their good works may glorify Thee, their Father who art in heaven.

Enable us all, O Lord, to build on that one great foundation which Thou hast laid in Zion; suffer us not to turn away from it, through our own infirmity, or through the tempter's power; save us from the folly of building thereon what Thy word condemns as wood, hay, and stubble; but grant that, abiding in Christ, our works may be wrought in God, and that they may be approved in the great day of His appearing.

Hear, accept, and bless us this night, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

For Grace to be prepared for Death.

MOST Holy God, who hast in Thy good providence brought us to the close of another week, be pleased to receive us graciously this evening, to pardon all wherein we have sinned against Thee, to accept our most humble and hearty thanks for Thy many mercies, and to continue to us Thy grace and loving-kindness.

As days and weeks pass by, we are reminded of the shortness of life, and the uncertainty of all earthly things, and we beseech Thee to give us grace so to live that we may be prepared to die.

O deepen our repentance and strengthen our faith in Thy dear Son, that when our call shall come we may be found in Him, washed in His most precious blood, clothed with His righteousness, and sealed with

the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our future inheritance.

We bless Thee for the assurance which Thou hast given us, that to Thy people death is gain, and that when absent from the body they are present with the Lord. Enable us to realize these great and precious promises, and so to live under their sanctifying influence that we may be found ready to walk through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil, knowing that Thou art with us, and that Thy rod and Thy staff shall comfort and support us.

We commend to Thee our beloved relatives and friends. Oh, let not death come upon any of them unawares, but grant them so to live in Thy faith and fear, that whether their days on earth shall be long or short, they may have their conversation in heaven, and be found at last in peace, prepared to depart and to be with Christ, which is far better.

We pray Thee to look upon the sick and dying in this neighbourhood, and so to *visit them* with Thy heavenly grace, that

they may wisely consider their position, examine themselves whether they be in the faith, and cast themselves on Him who is able to save them to the uttermost.

And now, O Lord, prepare us by a night of rest for the duties and privileges of Thy sabbath, and, if it be Thy will, spare us to enter upon it in the spirit of thanksgiving and praise. Be with all who love and fear Thee this night, and especially with Thy ministers, who are waiting upon Thee, seeking to be prepared for the services of Thy house, and for the ministry of Thy word on the morrow. O give the word, Thou who alone canst do so, and grant it to go forth with power, to the glory of Thy Name, the edifying of Thy people, and the turning many unto righteousness.

Hear us in heaven thy dwelling-place, and send us an answer in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

Second Week,

On the Model of the Prayers of St. Paul.

SUNDAY EVENING.

Rom. xv. 13.

O GOD, who hast begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and hast called us with an holy calling to serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Thee, all the days of our lives, we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us this evening, to accept our humble and hearty thanks for the religious ordinances which we have this day enjoyed, and to grant that these means of grace may be accompanied in our experience by the hope of glory.

O God of Hope, who hast dealt so graciously with us, enable us to walk worthy of the calling wherewith we are called; save us from slavish and unworthy fears, *and whilst* we are deeply sensible of our

sinfulness in Thy sight, give us grace to cherish, at all times, the hope of salvation. We believe this to be Thy will concerning us and all who love Thee, for Thou hast not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, let not this blessed hope be clouded through our manifold infirmities, or through the temptations of our great adversary, but grant it to be as an anchor to our souls both sure and stedfast, sustaining us amidst the winds and waves of this troublesome world, and enabling us to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Fill us, O Lord, with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost, and so be permitted to show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.

We ask not these blessings for ourselves only, but for all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Lift upon them, O Lord, the light of Thy countenance, fill them also with all joy and peace in believing, and grant that they too may abound in hope through the power of the Holy

Ghost. Bless the ordinances which they have enjoyed this day to all such, and make them instrumental in building them up on their most holy faith, in preserving them from the corruptions which are in the world, and in fitting them for Thine everlasting kingdom.

And, O merciful God, look with compassion upon those who, although living in a Christian land, are still without hope and without God in the world. Awaken them, we beseech Thee, to a sense of their guilt and danger, and in Thine infinite mercy, grant them repentance unto life, that they may be saved from the wrath to come, and numbered with Thy true and faithful people.

Hear us in these our prayers and intercessions; accept our humble and hearty thanksgivings for Thy mercies; pardon all our sins, and watch over us in Thy love for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Ephes. i. 15–23.

MOST high and holy God, who hast sustained us amidst the duties and anxieties of this day, and hast brought us to its close in peace, be pleased to receive and bless us this night, and grant us a season of needful rest and repose.

Bestow upon us, Thine unworthy servants, such a measure of Thy heavenly grace that we may spend all the days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage in harmony with Thy will, ever exercising a lively faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and cherishing love unfeigned towards all His saints, ceasing not to give thanks on their behalf, and to make mention of them in our prayers.

O God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, we beseech Thee to give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, that we may know Him more and more, and be constrained to

devote ourselves to His service, and to be ever showing forth His praise.

Thou knowest how much our mental powers have been enfeebled by sin and darkened through their alienation from Thee. Oh, let it please Thee to enlighten the eyes of our understanding by Thy Spirit, that we may know what is the hope of our calling, and what the glorious riches of Thine inheritance in the saints; that, knowing these things, we may be duly influenced by them, and set our affection on things above, and not on things that are on the earth.

We are weak indeed, and have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; but our sufficiency is of Thee, and we pray Thee to grant us so to experience the greatness of Thy power towards all who truly believe, that we may be raised from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness, and be more than conquerors over all our spiritual foes.

O Thou, who hast manifested Thy mighty power by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and by

setting Him at Thine own right hand in heavenly places, far above all principality and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come,—be pleased to enable us so to abide in Him, and to realize that He is the Head over all things to His Church, that we may receive of His fulness even grace for grace.

Give us of that fulness, O Lord, according to our need; fulness of pardoning mercy, fulness of sanctifying grace, fulness of power to accomplish what Thou wouldest have us to do,—that the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept, most gracious God, these our humble prayers and supplications, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Ephes. iii. 14–21.

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, we reverently bow before Thee this evening, rendering thanks for the many mercies which we have received at Thy hand this day, and humbling ourselves for all our sins.

We earnestly desire to run with patience the race that is set before us, and we beseech Thee to grant to us and to all Thy people, in these perilous times, to be strengthened with might by Thy Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, and that, believing with the heart unto righteousness, we may be always ready to make confession with the mouth unto salvation.

Bestow on us, O Lord, more and more of the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that, being rooted and grounded in love—the perfect

love that casteth out fear, and that raiseth the heart's affections to Thyself—we may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.

Blessed Jesus, who hast loved us and hast given Thyself for us, be pleased to draw us to Thyself, and to separate us more and more from the things of sense and time, that we may follow Thee wheresoever Thou leadest us, and count all things to be but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Thy Name.

O Lord God, who hast laid in Zion for a foundation a tried stone, a precious corner-stone, a sure foundation, grant us to be built thereon, that we may form part of that spiritual temple which Thou art preparing for Thyself, and which shall at length be filled with all the fulness of God.

Give us grace that we may walk worthy of this our calling; save us from hindering Thy purpose, or grieving Thy Spirit through our manifold infirmities; and grant that in whatever circumstances we may be placed,

whether in the discharge of duty or in fighting the good fight of faith, or in resisting the power and subtlety of our great adversary, we may remember that we are not our own, but bought with a price, and seek to glorify Thee in our bodies and spirits, which are Thine.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Philip. i. 9–11.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst guide Thy people of old time by a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, we beseech Thee to enable us at all times to realize Thy presence, that we may spend the days and nights of our earthly pilgrimage in the fear of Thy holy Name.

Thou hast granted us the light of day for the discharge of our appointed duties, and Thou hast now brought on the stillness of the night, that we may be at rest, and that our wearied bodies may be refreshed with sleep. Be with us, we pray Thee; watch over us, and bless us, and extend Thy gracious care and protection to all who are dear to us.

Amidst Thy many mercies, temporal and spiritual, grant that our love towards Thee may continually increase, and that it *may* abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment, for we would

serve Thee not only with the best affections of our hearts, but in the spirit of a sound mind.

Thou hast called us to Thy service in times when religious errors abound, and when Satan himself seems to be transformed into an angel of light; O grant us true wisdom and discernment, that we may not turn aside to the right hand or to the left, but that we may approve the things which are excellent and reject those things which are contrary to Thy truth. Thou hast given us Thy word to be a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our paths, and we humbly ask of Thee grace to enable us to use it aright, and to make it the sole rule of our faith and practice.

We are deeply sensible of our weakness, and we entreat Thee so to strengthen us with Thy heavenly grace that we may not act inconsistently with our profession, but that maintaining constant watchfulness over ourselves, we may be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ.

It is Thy revealed purpose that Thy people shall be all righteous, the branch *of Thy planting*, the work of Thy hand,

that Thou mayest be glorified. Oh, grant to us Thy servants this evidence of being numbered with them; enable us to deny ourselves and to take up our cross daily, and so assist us by Thy grace that we may be filled with those fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus to the praise and glory of God.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, we commend to Thee all who are this night in circumstances of sorrow and suffering. Be pleased to strengthen the weak, to succour the tempted, and to give Thy special blessing to the dying. Supply their wants from Thine inexhaustible fulness; give Thine angels charge concerning them, and be the God and portion of all those who trust in Thee.

We present our humble petitions in the Name of Jesus Christ, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

Col. i. 9-13.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep, and there is no health in us; but we beseech Thee to have compassion upon us, and to give us grace to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

We earnestly pray Thee to fill us with the knowledge of Thy will, and to teach us to do it from our hearts. We have brought upon ourselves many sorrows by preferring our own wills to Thine, but we desire to humble ourselves before Thee, to acknowledge and confess our fault, and to ask of Thee true wisdom and spiritual understanding, that we may know and accomplish what Thou wouldest have us to do.

Thou art our hiding-place and our shield. Hold us up, and we shall be safe; *and enable us to* walk worthy of the Lord

unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Teach us, like Enoch, to walk with God, and, like David, to set the Lord always before us; and grant that our light may so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, shall be constrained to glorify Thee, our Father which art in heaven.

Blessed Lord, all power is Thine. Strengthen us, then, we pray Thee, by Thy Spirit; increase our faith, enable us to possess our souls in patience, amidst disappointment and opposition; and whatever trials Thou art pleased to appoint for us, may we have grace to recognise Thy Fatherly hand, and to submit ourselves wholly unto Thee. Oh, strengthen us with all might, according to Thy glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness.

We give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for the blessed hope which Thou hast set before us, and we earnestly pray Thee to make us more and more meet for that heavenly city which Thou hast prepared for Thy people.

And, O Lord, look mercifully upon those who are still ignorant of these things, living according to the course of this world, in carelessness or in sin. Awaken them to a sense of their guilt and danger; deliver them from the power of darkness, and translate them into the kingdom of Thy dear Son, that they may know the happiness of serving Thee, and be found at last meet for Thy kingdom.

We desire, ere we retire to rest, to praise Thee for Thy goodness and loving-kindness to us this day, and to humble ourselves on account of our many sins and shortcomings. Be pleased, O Lord, to watch over us this night; and if it be Thy will, spare us to the light of another day, for the sake of that Friend who loved us, and who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

1 Thess. iii. 12, 13.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, how great is the love which Thou hast bestowed on us, that we should be called Thy children, and made Thy sons and daughters by adoption and grace!

Oh, make us more worthy of this high and holy calling, that we may live near to Thee, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, and that Thy Spirit may bear witness with our spirits that we are the children of God.

Blessed Jesus, who hast called us from the world that lieth in wickedness to take up our cross and to follow Thee, and hast given us a new commandment that we should love one another, strengthen us, we pray Thee, and incline our hearts to keep this law, that all men may know that we are Thy disciples by the love that we have one towards another.

Spirit of Love, proceeding from the *Father* and from the Son, breathe on us, we

beseech Thee, and on all the people of God, that we may be saved from transgressing our Lord's command by our sinful strifes and divisions, and that amidst all the perils of these last days we may increase and abound in love one toward another.

O righteous Father, we desire to humble ourselves for every breach of brotherly love which we through our frailty have committed, and we ask of Thee grace to love all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, that we may strive together in our prayers for them, and seek to do them good.

Most gracious God, give to us, and to all who love and fear Thee, feelings of kindness, compassion, and tenderness towards all men, that we may ever seek to do them good, and be instrumental, through Thy blessing, in leading them to the knowledge of Thy truth, and to faith in Thee.

And whilst seeking thus to fulfil Thy will in Christ Jesus concerning us, enable us to remember what manner of persons we ought to be in all holy conversation *and godliness*, that, keeping ourselves un-

spotted from the world, our hearts may be established unblamable in holiness before God, even the Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

We praise Thee, O Lord, for the mercies of this day, and we commit ourselves to Thy care this night. Be pleased to watch over us and over all who are dear to us. Preside in our hearts by Thy grace, and defend us by Thy power. Be very merciful to all who are in suffering—to the many who are watering their couches with their tears, and to those who are approaching that solemn and momentous hour when the earthly house of this tabernacle must be dissolved. O merciful Father, pity the children of men in their many sorrows, and be pleased to glorify Thy Name, by extending to them help according to their need.

Incline Thy gracious ear to these our humble petitions, and do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Heb. xiii. 20, 21.

O GOD of peace, be pleased to receive us graciously this evening, for we draw near to Thee in the Name of Thy dear Son, who has purchased peace for us by His death upon the cross.

We praise and bless Thee for all that the Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, has accomplished for us by His life of perfect obedience to Thy law, by His agony and bloody sweat, by His cross and passion, by His precious death and burial, by His glorious resurrection and ascension; and as Thou didst raise Him from the dead through the blood of the everlasting covenant, be pleased to visit us also by Thy mighty power, and for His sake to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness.

We know, O Lord, that He gave Himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity,

and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works; and we earnestly pray that this great end may be accomplished in us. Oh, let it please Thee to bestow upon us Thy heavenly grace, and to make us perfect in every good work to do Thy will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight, and enabling us in all things to honour and glorify Thee.

Grant us, we beseech Thee, to be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, and to shine amongst them as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life, and seeking to accomplish Thy holy will to the benefit of those around us; that, living soberly, righteously, and godly in the world, we may, through Thy grace, be the means of turning many unto righteousness.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the mercies of the week which is about to close. Pardon wherein we have erred, and accept our feeble and imperfect endeavours to do what is right in Thy sight. Look graciously upon Thy people everywhere this evening, and prepare them for waiting upon Thee on Thy holy

day. Be especially with Thy ministers—with those whose office it is to conduct the services of Thy house and to divide Thy word of truth. Lord, they are in themselves but earthen vessels, greatly needing Thy Divine assistance in discharge of their important duties. Put forth Thy power, we humbly entreat Thee, and grant that Thy strength be made perfect in their weakness, that they may be found strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and prepared unto every good work.

O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; and let Thine ear be attentive to the voice of our supplications, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

For the promised Rest.

MOST Holy God, at the close of this Thy day we come to Thee, desirous of acknowledging Thy goodness and loving-kindness in the many privileges which we have enjoyed, and of earnestly asking that they may be followed by Thy blessing. Bless, we pray Thee, the solemn services of Thy house, the preaching of Thy word, the administration of the holy Sacraments, and the instruction in truth and righteousness which has been given in Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, and in many other ways. Oh breathe, by Thy Spirit, upon the seed thus sown, and grant that it may bear much fruit to the glory of Thy Name, the edification of Thy people, and the salvation of souls.

Bless and comfort those who have spent this day in sickness or in sorrow. Be very gracious to them; strengthen their faith, comfort their hearts, and give them perfect resignation to Thy will.

We believe that Thou hast given us Thy Sabbaths to be a sign between Thyself and us, and a pledge of the everlasting Sabbath for which we wait. Oh, grant us grace to realize this, and may each Sabbath as it passes find us better prepared for the never-ending Sabbath that is to come!

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to hasten the rest that remaineth for Thy people. Look upon their many sorrows, trials, and temptations; look upon this groaning earth, with the various orders of created beings made subject to vanity; look upon the dishonour done to Thy Name by wicked men, and the tares which are continually sown by our adversary the devil. Oh, look upon these things, and put forth Thy power to claim this Thy purchased possession. Destroy them which corrupt Thy fair creation, and hasten the time when the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of Thy glory, as the waters cover the sea.

Prepare us, and all who fear Thee, for this blessed consummation, and make our earthly Sabbaths conducive to this end. Bless them, O Lord, to the building up of Thy people in their most holy faith, and in

the conversion of sinners unto Thee. Bless those societies which labour to promote the due observance of the Lord's day; crown their efforts with success, and strengthen the hands of those who seek to secure for all classes the enjoyment of a day of rest.

Increase our faith, O Lord, in things hoped for, and give us grace to labour to enter into that rest, lest any of us should come short of it. Order our steps in Thy word, and let not any iniquity have dominion over us. Grant us to be ever leaving the things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before us, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

And now, O Lord, what wait we for? Our humble petitions are before Thee. Pardon wherein we have sinned this day; accept the feeble tribute of our gratitude and praise for Thy manifold mercies, and receive us and all who are dear to us into Thy gracious care and keeping this night, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

For an abiding Sense of God's Presence.

ETERNAL GOD, who hast been the dwelling-place of Thy people in all generations, their refuge and strength in every time of trouble, be pleased to look graciously on us Thy servants, who desire to put our trust wholly in Thee, and to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

We know, O Lord, that although Thou art high, Thou hast respect unto the lowly; and that whilst Thou resistest the proud, Thou givest grace to the humble.

Oh, make us truly humble; create in us new and contrite hearts; look upon us, not as we are in ourselves, but in the face of Thine Anointed, and grant us grace to cherish a sense of Thy presence at all times.

We know that Thou art indeed present everywhere, for Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. Whither shall we go

from Thy Spirit, or whither shall we flee from Thy presence? If we ascend up into heaven, Thou art there; if we make our bed in hell, behold Thou art there; if we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall Thy hand lead us, and Thy right hand shall hold us.

But we desire to realize Thee as our covenant God, our Father in Christ Jesus, and to set Thee always before us. Oh, enable us to do so, that we may walk in the light of Thy countenance, not turning aside to the right hand or to the left.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to give a true and lively sense of Thy presence to Thy people everywhere, that Thy Name may be hallowed amongst them, that Thy will may be fulfilled in them, and that, walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, they may be edified, and sinners around them converted unto Thee.

Amidst the many perils of these times, enable us to remember that as the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people, and that

under Thy protection there is no cause for alarm, as Thy purpose shall stand and Thy pleasure shall be accomplished.

Blessed Jesus, who hast said, 'Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world,' our faith is in Thee. Bestow upon us Thy Spirit, direct us by Thy word, guide us by Thy counsel, and at last receive us into glory.

And now, O Lord, who hast searched us and known us, pardon us wherein we have sinned this day in thought, word, and deed—all wherein we have come short of Thy glory by doing those things which we ought not to have done, and by leaving undone those things which we ought to have done. Cleanse us by the precious blood of Christ, and bestow upon us Thy blessing.

Be with us, we pray Thee, this night. May the angel of the Lord encamp round about us, and about all who are dear to us, protecting us from evil, and preserving our bodies, souls, and spirits blameless, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For a closer Walk with God.

O LORD GOD, who hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the sea and all that is therein, and who preservest them all; we bless Thee that Thou hast revealed Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, and hast called us to the knowledge of Thyself through faith in Him. Keep us ever steadfast in this faith, and grant us grace to walk in the light of Thy countenance, that we may in all things serve and honour Thee.

We are deeply sensible of the frailty of our nature, and of the power of temptation. so that without Thee we cannot but fall. Oh, give us the help of Thy grace, that we may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world.

Thou hast called Thy people to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth; but, alas! through our manifold sins and wickedness, we feel that we come far short of this Thy purpose in us. Forgive us, most merciful Father, and pity our infirmities; strengthen our faith that our hearts may be purified thereby; enable us day by day to walk humbly with our God, and to bring forth the peaceable fruit of righteousness in our lives.

Oh, teach us to walk in the Spirit, that we may not fulfil the lusts of the flesh; give us grace to deny ourselves, to watch over our tempers, to shun all ungodliness, and to avoid every source of temptation. Sanctify our intercourse with others; may no angry, impure, or unholy words, proceed from our lips, but may our speech be always with grace seasoned with salt, to the edifying of those who hear us.

Bestow upon us more and more of the unction of Thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, that our affections may be set on things

above, not on things which are on the earth, and that, living near to Thee, and walking in the light of Thy truth, we may in the end attain to the light of everlasting life.

We ask the like blessings for all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Oh, visit them abundantly with Thy heavenly grace, and grant that Thy strength may be made perfect in their weakness. May they have grace to overcome all evil passions, to withstand all corrupt affections, and to walk before Thee in newness of life, adorning the doctrine of our God and Saviour in all things, and constraining those who see their good works to glorify Thee our Father in heaven.

Have compassion upon those who lead ungodly lives. Awaken their consciences, convince them of their guilt and danger, and give them grace to repent and turn to Thee with all their hearts, that they may know the happiness of serving Thee, and of living soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.

Forgive us, Thy servants, most holy

God, all wherein we have sinned this day, and be pleased to accept and bless us this night; grant us the earnest of Thy Spirit in our hearts, that we may be amongst Thy sealed ones, and so kept by Thy power unto the day of redemption, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For our Countrymen of all ranks and degrees.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven, we draw near to Thee this evening in Thy blessed Son's Name, and we desire to render most humble and hearty thanks for the mercies which we are receiving at Thy hand. Thou hast preserved us through the day, fed us with food convenient for us, kept us from many evils, and brought us to its close in peace. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. And whilst we thankfully acknowledge Thy mercies to ourselves, we would also praise Thee for the national blessings which Thou hast so graciously bestowed upon us; for Thou hast greatly blessed our country, granted us a large measure of civil and religious liberty, shed abroad amongst us the light of Thy truth, and Thou hast given us many lengthened seasons of prosperity and peace.

We thank and praise Thee for these manifold and great blessings, whilst we confess with shame and sorrow that we have sinned grievously against Thee. We have been unmindful of Thee, the bounteous Giver of all our mercies, and have too often, alas! dishonoured Thy Name, broken Thy laws, and profaned Thy sabbaths. Forgive us, O most merciful God, and turn not away our prayer, nor Thy mercy from us, we beseech Thee.

We earnestly invoke Thy blessing upon our countrymen of all ranks and degrees, that the fear of the Lord may be upon them, that sin and wickedness may be restrained, and that righteousness and peace may be established among us.

Bless Thy servant our Sovereign the Queen. May the heart of the Queen be ever in the hand of the Lord, and may she know and honour Thee, by whom kings reign and princes decree justice. Bless her Ministers and Councillors, and raise up from time to time men of wisdom and understanding to guide aright the affairs of this great nation.

*Bless the High Court of Parliament, and grant them a spirit of wisdom and moderation, that their deliberations may tend to promote Thy glory, and the best interests of the country.

Bestow Thy heavenly grace, O Lord, upon the Princes and Nobles of the land, and upon all whom Thou hast set in high places, or intrusted with wealth and influence. Clothe them with humility, and give them the fear of the Lord, that they may realize their great responsibility, and remember the account which must be rendered hereafter for the talents intrusted to them.

Bless our Army and Navy. Be the defence of those who are called to defend their country, and teach them to trust in Thee. Preserve our soldiers and sailors from the temptations to which they are exposed; protect them in danger, strengthen them by Thy power, and make them faithful soldiers and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thou hast, of Thy goodness, granted

* *To* be omitted if Parliament be not assembled.

great commercial prosperity to our country; Thou hast raised her merchants to be princes, and her traffickers to be the honourable of the earth. Oh, may integrity and uprightness distinguish all our commercial transactions, and may the sacrifice of praise be ever rendered unto Thee.

Bless the Operative classes; all who are engaged in labour or industry of any kind. Prosper the work of their hands, and raise their hearts to Thyself, the Source of all our blessings.

Be merciful to the needy and distressed; give them resignation to Thy will, supply all their wants, and comfort their hearts by the assurance of Thy goodness to the poor.

Hear us in these our prayers and intercessions, pardon our sins, and grant us the blessedness of that nation whose God is the Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For all who are in Affliction, or any kind of Trouble.

O LORD, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, be pleased to accept us this evening through the merit of Thy beloved Son, in whom Thou art well pleased, and to lend Thine ear to the voice of our petitions.

We trace Thy loving hand in all the mercies of this day, and we give Thee most humble and hearty thanks for Thy goodness and loving-kindness towards us. Receive us and all who are dear to us into Thy keeping this night; watch over, protect, and bless us.

We are taught by Thy holy word that Thy people are the body of Christ and members one of another, and that they should have the same care one for another, that whether one member suffer all the members should suffer with it, or one *member* be honoured all the members

should rejoice with it. Give us this grace, we beseech Thee, and enable us to bear on our hearts before Thee all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and to be ever ready to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and to weep with them that weep.

We desire especially to commend unto Thee all who are in affliction or any kind of trouble. O Thou who hast often chosen Thy people in the furnace of affliction, be pleased to bless and sanctify their trials; enable them to realize that Thou chastenest them in love, not for Thy pleasure but for their profit, that they may be partakers of Thy holiness; and give them perfect submission to Thy will.

Comfort the sick and suffering; give them patience under their sorrows; grant that they may work together for their good; and appoint for them a joyful issue out of all tribulation.

Bless the dying; prepare them for the eventful change which so soon awaits them; pardon their sins, comfort their hearts, and *so strengthen* them by Thy Spirit that they

may walk through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil.

O God of all grace, be merciful to those who are peculiarly exposed to the power of temptation; and because the frailty of man without Thee cannot but fall, let Thy grace prove sufficient for them, and so strengthen and bless them that they may endure unto the end, and be more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

We would plead before Thee the cause of the widow and the orphan. O Thou who art a Father of the fatherless and a Judge of the widows, be pleased to bless them, to raise up friends to succour them, and to appoint all aright concerning them. Fail them not nor forsake them, O God of our salvation, but teach them at all times to trust in Thee.

Look graciously, O Lord, upon the labours of Christian philanthropy. Bless every effort made to comfort the afflicted or to relieve the distressed. Bless our hospitals, almshouses, and other charitable institutions; make them houses of mercy for the body and for the soul, and may they prove

the very gate of heaven to many children of adversity.

Bestow Thy grace, we pray Thee, upon those through whose liberality such works are carried on; bless them in their own souls, and prosper them in their basket and store; enable them to act from motives so pure and holy that their works may be found at last to be wrought in God, and that, through Thy grace, they may receive a full reward. Hear us in these our humble supplications, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

For Light and Guidance from on high.

MOST merciful God and Father, we draw near to Thee this night with reverence and godly fear, sensible of our unworthiness in Thy sight, and pleading before Thee the merit of Thy dear Son, who hath loved us and given Himself for us. Accept us, we pray Thee, for His sake; pardon our sins, clothe us with His righteousness, and grant us the presence of Thy Holy Spirit in our hearts.

We desire, O Lord, to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; but, alas! we are sore let and hindered through our manifold sins and wickedness, and we earnestly ask of Thee grace to know and power to accomplish what Thou wouldest have us to do. Teach us to do Thy will, for Thou art our God. Thy Spirit is good; lead us to the land of uprightness.

Eternal and incomprehensible God! whose thoughts are not as our thoughts, and whose ways are not as our ways, we feel deeply the mystery of Thy providence, and are often unable to comprehend the nature and purpose of Thy dealings with us; but we beseech Thee to strengthen our faith, and to uphold us by Thy power, that we may humbly submit ourselves unto Thee, assured that in due season Thou wilt make darkness to be light before us, and crooked things straight.

Thou hast said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.' We plead that promise at Thy throne, beseeching Thee to undertake for us, and to lead us by the right way, that we may go to the city of habitation.

We desire, O Lord, to keep the way of Thy precepts, and to walk before Thee in sincerity and truth; but dark clouds overshadow us, and we cannot always see the way wherein we should go. Oh, be pleased to instruct us and teach us, and grant that our ears may hear a voice behind us saying,

'This is the way, walk ye in it,' when we turn to the right hand and when we turn to the left. Lead us, O Lord, in the paths of righteousness for Thy Name's sake.

Look mercifully upon Thy true and faithful people amidst their manifold trials, and bestow upon them the grace and blessing which they need. Be Thou their hiding-place; preserve them from trouble, and compass them about with songs of deliverance.

Be gracious to those whose hearts are overwhelmed, and who are in perplexity. Lead them, we pray Thee, to the Rock that is higher than we, and teach them to trust in the covert of Thy wings.

Draw nigh to such as walk in darkness and have no light; pity them in their sore conflict, and give them grace to trust in the Name of the Lord, and to stay themselves upon their God.

Be the God and portion, the strength and stay, the ruler and guide, of all who place their trust in Thee; and whatever trials it shall please Thee to appoint for

them, we entreat Thee to bless them, and to make the path of duty plain before their face.

Most loving Father, who willest not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, we beseech Thee to overrule the sorrows and vicissitudes of this mortal life to the salvation of many souls. May the visitations of sickness, the loss of friends, the casualties so frequently occurring, and all other afflictive dispensations of Thy hand, awaken the consciences of men, and constrain them to seek Thee with all their hearts in a time when Thou mayest be found.

Hear us, O merciful Lord God, and send us an answer in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

For a Faithful Ministry.

O LORD, our God and Father in Christ Jesus, be pleased to accept and bless us this evening, for we come before Thee in Thine own appointed way, earnestly desiring to hallow Thy Name, and to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

Thou hast spared us through the day, and hast brought us to the close of another week; Thou hast given us many proofs of Thy watchful and loving care, for Thy mercies have been new every morning, and Thy tender mercies every night; and now we beseech Thee to pardon wherein we have erred, to receive us into Thy holy keeping, and to prepare us by refreshing rest for the duties and privileges of the morrow.

Prepare Thy people everywhere, O Lord, for Thy holy day; shed abroad in their hearts Thy heavenly grace; teach

them so to wait upon Thee that they may renew their strength, and grant them with joy to draw water from the wells of salvation.

May Thy rich and abundant blessing rest upon Thy ministers, that they may conduct the services of Thy house with joyful and willing hearts, and so minister Thy word as to feed the flock of God which He has purchased with His own blood.

We earnestly invoke Thy blessing, O Lord, upon the ministers of truth everywhere. Oh, grant them more and more of the unction of Thy Spirit; keep them unspotted from the world; preserve them from all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to Thy word, and give them grace to minister before Thee, in these perilous times, in the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Lord Jesus, who hast ascended on high, leading captivity captive and receiving gifts for men, and who gavest some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; we beseech Thee to bestow upon Thy Church in these last days such gifts as Thou seest to be needful for her, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Oh, breathe upon the youth of our land; open their eyes to see the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, and grant them to be constrained by love to Thee to devote themselves to Thy service, and to spend and be spent for Christ.

Bless those now preparing for the ministry; prosper them in their studies, and make them strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, that they may hereafter prove themselves to be workmen needing not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

And, O most merciful God, have compassion on the lands still sitting in darkness and the shadow of death. Look, we pray Thee, on the fields now white unto

the harvest, and send forth many labourers at this eleventh hour to gather souls into Thy heavenly garner.

Bless all faithful missionaries, and add greatly to their number. Make their feet beautiful upon the mountains; set before them an open door which no man can shut, and may they be honoured in turning many unto righteousness.

Hasten, O Lord, the happy time when darkness shall no more cover the earth, nor gross darkness the people, but when all shall know Thee, from the least even to the greatest, and when Thy will shall be done in earth even as it is in heaven.

Hear our humble prayers and intercessions, for the sake of Him whom Thou hearest always, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

Fourth Week.

SUGGESTED BY THE BEATITUDES.

SUNDAY EVENING.

For Humility.—Matt. v. 3.

O GOD, the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy, be pleased to look with mercy and compassion upon us Thy sinful and unworthy servants, who draw near to Thee at the close of this Thy holy day, in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Strength and our Redeemer.

We know, O Lord, that heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee; yet hast Thou been pleased to say that Thou wilt dwell with him that is contrite and of an humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and the hearts of the contrite ones.

We beseech Thee, most holy God, to give us this true humility, that we may overcome the pride and vanity of our hearts, and see ourselves to be by nature void of any good thing, wretched and miserable, poor, and blind, and naked in Thy sight.

We have, indeed, nothing to glory in before Thee, for we were conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity, and hadst Thou left us to ourselves, we must have perished everlastingly: but Thou, O Lord, hast had compassion upon us, and hast sent Thy Son to seek and to save us.

Give us grace, we pray Thee, to consider Him, who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men, and who, being found in fashion as a man, humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross; and as we meditate on these things, may the mind be found in us which was also

in Christ Jesus. Oh, for His sake, teach us to walk humbly with our God.

May this grace be largely bestowed upon all who fear Thy Name, that they may not grieve Thy Holy Spirit by their carnal pride and self-sufficiency, but may humble themselves before Thee for their many sins and shortcomings, and walk in all lowliness of mind, each esteeming other better than himself.

Make us all, O Lord God, poor in spirit, as Thou wouldest have us to be, that Thy kingdom may be established within us now, and that we may be found meet to participate in its glory hereafter.

Bless, for this end, the ordinances and means of grace which we have this day enjoyed, and make them channels of living water to all who have been waiting upon Thee. Forgive wherein we have come short of Thy glory, and let not our manifold infirmities deprive us of Thy covenant blessing. Look upon us not as we are in ourselves, but in the face of Thine Anointed; watch over us this night, and

give us the rest that Thou knowest to be needful for us.

Preserve us, if it be Thy will, to the light of another day, and prepare us to serve Thee in it with our bodies and spirits, which are Thine; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

For Godly Sorrow.—Matt. v. 4.

MOST holy and merciful God, we come before Thee this evening in the Name of Thy dear Son, in whom Thou art ever well pleased, and we desire to humble ourselves before Thee for our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Thy divine Majesty. The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, and for Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past.

We know, O God, that the sacrifices pleasing unto Thee are a broken spirit, and that a broken and contrite heart Thou wilt not despise. Be pleased to grant us, through the grace of Thy Holy Spirit,

more and more this frame of mind, that whilst we rejoice in Christ Jesus, and cast all our care on Him, we may ever cherish a deep sense of our sinfulness before Thee, and exercise ourselves in that godly sorrow which worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of.

We mourn for our *own* sins, and would humble ourselves under Thy mighty hand on account of them. Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us, and know our thoughts; and give us grace that we may truly repent and forsake all sin. We mourn for the sins of *our fellow-Christians*, whereby Thy Spirit is grieved and Thy gracious and loving purpose in them is hindered. Have compassion upon them, O God; pity their infirmities, deepen their repentance, and enable them to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. In Thy mercy, O Lord, spare all those who confess their sins unto Thee, and grant them pardon and peace through the precious blood of Jesus Christ Thy Son, which cleanseth us from all sin.

We mourn for the sins *which are done*

in our land. Lord, Thou hast been favourable unto our land; Thou hast blessed us with many blessings, granted us a large share of civil and religious liberty, and hast raised our country to a high position of influence and power: but, alas! amidst these distinguishing mercies we have not glorified Thee as we ought to have done.

We acknowledge this with shame and confusion of face. We sigh and cry over our national sins, our broken Sabbaths, our social impurities and numerous instances of commercial unrighteousness, our public violations of Thy law, with that want of reverence for Thee, and for Thy holy word, which have too often been manifested in high places.

Pardon us, we beseech thee, O King of Nations, and pour upon us the spirit of true repentance, that our land may mourn, every family apart and every individual apart; and make us what we ought to be, a people fearing Thee and working righteousness.

Save us from national judgments, O

God, and grant that, in these last times, this country, which Thou hast so highly favoured, may be preserved in peace, and made a source of light and blessing to the nations.

We present these our humble prayers and intercessions in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

For Meekness.—Matt. v. 5.

O ETERNAL GOD and most merciful Father, we beseech Thee to look upon us in Thy grace and loving-kindness this evening, and to receive us as Thy children, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have indeed sinned against Thee, and are no more worthy to be called Thy children; but we plead before Thee the merit of Him who died for us, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God; and we humbly ask for pardon and peace through His most precious blood.

And, O Lord, whilst we trust in that one perfect and complete offering, oblation, and satisfaction which He has made for us, we earnestly plead for grace to follow the blessed steps of His most holy life, that we may walk even as He walked, and present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee.

Thou knowest, O God, how weak our nature is, and how manifold are the temptations by which we are surrounded; but Thy grace is all-sufficient, and we pray Thee to enable us to live according to Thy will, and in all things to serve and please Thee.

Oh, may we ever follow the example which *He* has left us who was meek and lowly in heart, who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not, but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously.

Save us, O Lord, from dishonouring Thee by a contentious spirit, or by indulging in carnal strifes and divisions; but enable us to walk in all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We are warned by Thy holy word to expect much opposition from the world, and we are told that all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. We

bless Thee that Thou hast dealt very tenderly with us in these respects in our times, for we have enjoyed full liberty of conscience, and have had little outward persecution to endure: but we beseech Thee to strengthen us to bear the cross appointed for us, and to teach us to possess our souls in patience, showing all meekness to all men.

Oh, may we be constrained by the love of Christ to live to Thee, to do Thy will, having our conversation in heaven, from whence we are looking for our Lord; and amidst the gainsaying of unreasonable and wicked men may we ever consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest we be wearied and faint in our minds.

Hasten that happy time, O Lord, when all rebellion against Thy righteous government shall be put down, when opposition to Thy holy will shall cease, when the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Lord, save all the meek of the earth; *guide* them in judgment, increase their

joy in the Lord, reprove with equity for their sakes, beautify them with salvation; and grant that we Thy servants, with all who are dear to us, may have our portion with them.

We beseech Thee to hear us in these our humble petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

For Righteousness.—Matt. v. 6.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art righteous in all Thy ways, and holy in all Thy works, how shall we draw near unto Thee, who are but dust and ashes? We do not come in our own name, or relying on our own merit, for we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags, but we come in the name of Him who was made sin for us, though He knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

We bless Thee for the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer, who by the sacrifice of Himself once offered has finished the transgression, made an end of sins, and brought in everlasting righteousness. Accept us, O Lord, for His sake; take away our filthy garments from us, and clothe us with a change of raiment, even with that righteousness of

God by faith in Jesus Christ, which is unto all and upon all them that believe.

We make mention of His righteousness, and of that only; we trust in it, we hide ourselves under it, and we desire to hold fast our confidence in it to the end, that when we die we may be found in Him, not having our own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

And, O Lord, whilst we trust in the righteousness of Thy dear Son as the sole ground of our acceptance with Thee, we earnestly pray that, in accordance with Thy will, we may be renewed in righteousness by Thy Spirit, taught to love Thy law, to delight in Thy will, to keep Thy commandments, and to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Thou hast said that Thy people shall be all righteous, the branch of Thy planting, the work of Thy hand, that Thou mayest be glorified; and we beseech Thee to fulfil this Thy holy purpose in us, that *dying daily* unto sin and living unto

righteousness, we may in all things serve and honour Thee, and that, mortifying our corrupt nature, and crucifying the flesh, with its affections and lusts, we may be filled with those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the praise and glory of God.

Bless all who follow after righteousness, O God; compass them with Thy favour as with a shield; lend Thy gracious ear to their prayers, fulfil their desires, grant them to flourish as the palm-tree, and hasten the time when they shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of our Father.

Bless all who, taught by Thy word and constrained by Thy Spirit, are seeking to turn others unto righteousness, and crown their efforts with success.

Bless those rulers and statesmen who seek to promote the cause of righteousness in the councils of this nation. Grant that the throne of our beloved Sovereign may be established in righteousness, and may all ranks and degrees amongst us have grace to remember that it is righteousness which

exalteth a nation, whilst sin is a reproach to any people.

Hear us, O God, in these our humble prayers; pardon wherein we have erred this day; watch over us this night, and be gracious and merciful unto us for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

For Mercy, and the spirit of Mercy.—Matt. v. 7.

O GOD, who showest Thy almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity, we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us Thy servants this evening, for we draw near to Thee, deeply sensible of our unworthiness, but humbly trusting in Thy mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Have mercy upon us, O God, after Thy loving-kindness, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions: wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin.

In Thy dealings with us, O Lord God, Thou hast indeed been merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and slow to anger, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; for how often mightest Thou have visited us in Thine anger and cut us off in Thy displeasure, but Thou hast had compassion

upon us, and hast spared us in Thy goodness and loving-kindness.

Extend Thy tender mercy to Thy people everywhere, O Lord, and compass them with Thy favour as with a shield. Forgive their many shortcomings of Thy glory, and strengthen them to do Thy will, that they may be a holy and peculiar people to Thyself, ever rejoicing in Thy mercy, and being glad in Thy salvation.

And, O Lord, we pray Thee to have mercy upon all men, for Thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Defeat the purpose of Satan concerning them, and hasten the time when he shall be bruised under our feet. Bring to nothing the devices of those who seek to tempt others, and to turn them aside from the good and right way. Rebuke them, O Lord, and save and deliver those who are tempted. O Thou who keepest mercy for thousands, display Thy grace and goodness amidst the perils of these last times, by snatching many as brands from the burning, turning them unto Thyself, and making them partakers of Thy salvation.

And, O God, be pleased to give us all, bowels of mercy, kindness, and long-suffering, that we may know how to love our enemies, to do good to them that hate us, and to pray for them that despitefully use us and persecute us, and so prove ourselves to be the children of our Father which is in heaven, who maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and who sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

May Thy blessing rest upon the merciful everywhere. Look graciously upon those who by self-denying labours seek to relieve the wants of others, to alleviate their sufferings, to heal the broken in heart, and to comfort those that mourn. Bless them, O Lord, in their labours of love, and grant them in due season, through Thy grace, a full reward. Hear us, in these our humble petitions, for Thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

For Purity of Heart.—Matt. v. 8.

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name.

We acknowledge with shame and sorrow, that our hearts are by nature sinful and impure, for the heart of fallen man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; but, O merciful God, Thou hast been pleased to promise a new heart and a right spirit to them that fear Thee, and we pray Thee to remember this Thy word unto Thy servants on which Thou hast caused us to hope. Put Thy laws into our hearts, and write them in our minds, that we may be indeed Thy people, and *that Thou* mayest be our God.

Teach us, O God of purity, to love Thee with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind, that we may walk before Thee day by day in all simplicity and sincerity, rejoicing to do Thy will, and seeking in all things to serve Thee.

Thou knowest, O merciful Father, how weak we are, how liable to err, and how unable of ourselves to resist the power of temptation, but Thou hast said that Thou wilt not leave us nor forsake us, therefore have we hope. Oh, strengthen us to fight the good fight of faith, enable us to keep our hearts with all diligence, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, to unite the hearts of Thy people in love to Thee and to one another. O give them one heart and one way that they may fear Thee for ever, and grant that all who are in the faith may, as of old time, be of one heart and of one soul, that avoiding all strifes and divisions, and endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, they may

shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life.

We bless Thee that Thou hast revealed to us by Thy Spirit those good things which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee, and hast promised that in Thy glorious and everlasting kingdom Thy servants shall serve Thee, and shall see Thy face, and Thy name shall be in their foreheads. Oh, sanctify us wholly in heart and life, in body and soul, and make us meet for the inheritance of Thy saints in light. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, try us and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

Hear us in these our humble prayers, receive us into Thy holy keeping this night; pardon all wherein we have erred and come short of Thy glory this day, and be our God and our portion for ever, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

For the spirit of peace, and for grace to suffer for righteousness' sake.—Matt. v. 9–12.

MOST gracious and merciful God, who hast had compassion upon us, and hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to purchase peace for us by the blood of His cross, we draw near to Thee this evening, pleading His merit at Thy throne, and casting all our care on Him who careth for us.

We beseech Thee to grant us to be numbered with those who being justified by faith have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ; and may that peace which passeth all understanding keep our hearts and minds, preserving us calm and undisturbed amidst the winds and waves of this troublesome world.

We earnestly desire to seek peace and ensue it, to live peaceably with all men, *humbly* endeavouring to heal those strifes

and divisions which too often separate Thy people, and striving to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We are assured by Thy Holy Word that the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. Grant, we pray Thee, that this may be our experience, and that, under all circumstances, we may have the peace of those who love Thy law.

Teach us, O God of peace, in all simplicity and sincerity, to make known the way of peace to others,—to tell them at how great a price it has been purchased, and how freely it is bestowed, and make us instrumental in turning them from darkness unto light, and from the power of Satan unto God.

Grant that we may be indeed Thy children, O Lord, and may Thy peace so rule in our hearts that we may patiently bear the cross appointed for us, and be prepared, if need be, to suffer for righteousness' sake.

We bless Thee for the power and

strength which Thou hast ever bestowed on those who have confessed Thy Name in times of persecution, and who have sealed their testimony with their blood, enabling them to glorify Thee in the fires, to take joyfully the spoiling of their goods, knowing that in heaven they have a better and an enduring substance.

The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee; and we Thy servants desire to praise Thee on their behalf, beseeching Thee to give grace to Thy people at all times to confess Thy name before men, and to be strong and very courageous in maintaining and defending Thy truth.

We ascribe glory and praise unto Thee for all who have ever done so; for those who in early times suffered from Pagan persecution; for those witnesses clothed in sackcloth, who, during successive centuries of Popish tyranny and oppression, were found faithful unto Thee and to Thy truth, loving not their lives unto death; and for those who in these last times have suffered at the hands of the darkened heathen.

We glorify Thee that Thy grace was

made sufficient for them, and that Thy strength was made perfect in their weakness.

Grant us, O Lord, to follow them as they also followed Christ, to confess Thy name at all times, and to be faithful even unto death.

Hear us, in these our humble and imperfect petitions, and grant us an answer in peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Blessing, &c.

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Intended to be substituted for the Morning or Evening Prayer for the day.

For New Year's Day.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast been the dwelling-place of Thy people in all generations, we appear before Thee this day with the voice of praise and thanksgiving.

We bless Thee that Thou hast spared us to enter upon another year, and we earnestly beseech Thee to give us grace to serve and honour Thee in it, to walk before Thee with all humility of mind, and to persevere in the narrow way which leadeth unto life everlasting.

We know not, O God, what events this year may unfold, what joys or sorrows, what seasons of prosperity or days of dark adversity may be appointed for us; but we desire to cast all our care on Thee. Undertake for us, we beseech Thee; show us Thy ways, O Lord, teach us Thy paths, and save us from turning aside to the right hand or to the left.

Give us grace, we pray Thee, to live *by faith in* Thy dear Son, who loved us

and gave Himself for us; enable us daily to bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness; and, amidst the manifold temptations and trials by which we are surrounded, teach us so to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, that we may abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

We commend to Thee our dear relatives and friends. Oh, may the opening year prove rich in mercies to them, both temporal and spiritual! Bless them with health of body and mind; but, above all, bless them in their souls; and give them grace, in this and each year of their lives, to walk in the light of Thy truth, that they may in the end attain to the light of everlasting life.

Make this a year of blessing to all who love and fear Thee; grant them more and more of the grace of Thy Holy Spirit; deliver them from evil; sanctify them wholly; unite them in bonds of faith and love; and may their light so shine before men, that others, seeing their good works, may glorify Thee our Father in heaven.

Bless Thine ancient people. O Lord, remember Israel, and grant that the time to favour them may speedily come; pity

their many sorrows, pardon their great sins, pour upon them the spirit of grace and of supplication, and turn again their captivity, according to Thy most sure and certain word.

May Thy blessing rest upon the means of grace everywhere, at home and abroad, throughout this year; and may Thy word have free course, and be glorified in the building up of Thy people, and in the conversion of sinners unto Thee.

And now, O Lord, what wait we for? These are our humble prayers. Be with us, to bless and guide us in all things during the days and weeks and months of this year. Spare us to its close, if it be Thy will; but if Thou hast otherwise determined, grant that when our call shall come we may be found in peace, prepared to put off this earthly tabernacle, and ready to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Hear us, O faithful and unchanging God, for the sake of Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

National Humiliation.

O LORD GOD, merciful and gracious, who forgivest iniquity, transgression and sin, and yet who wilt by no means clear the guilty, we desire this day to humble ourselves under Thy mighty hand, and to acknowledge and confess that we have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments.

Great and manifold are the blessings which Thou hast conferred upon us, for Thou hast been favourable to our land, and hast greatly blessed us as a nation. Thou didst by Thy wonderful providence deliver our fathers from religious errors and superstition, and Thou hast permitted Thy Word to have free course and to be glorified amongst us. Thou hast granted us a large measure of civil and religious *liberty;* Thou hast favoured us with great

commercial prosperity; Thou hast many times preserved us from foreign foes, and hast given victory to our army and navy in the day of battle, and Thou hast raised our country to a high position of power and influence among the nations.

These are amongst Thy great and undeserved mercies towards us; but alas! we acknowledge with shame and confusion of face that we have not rendered again according to the benefits done to us.

We have sinned against Thee, O most gracious God, and have too often forgotten Thee, the bountiful Giver of all our mercies. We have profaned Thy sabbaths, neglected thine ordinances, broken Thy laws, permitted great social evils to exist amongst us, and have too often slighted Thee in our national assemblies, and in acts of national legislation.

O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto Thee, but unto us confusion of face as at this day, to our Sovereign, to our Princes and Nobles, to our Legislators, and to all ranks and degrees amongst us.

But Thou hast said that if we confess

our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Give us grace that we may do so, we humbly beseech Thee; bestow on us the spirit of true repentance, and enable us, by Thy power, to break off our sins by righteousness and our iniquities by showing mercy to the poor.

Turn us, O Lord God, and so shall we be turned. Cast us not away in Thine anger, neither visit us in Thy displeasure, but spare us in Thy mercy, establish the throne of our Sovereign in righteousness, and make us what Thou wouldest have us to be, a people fearing Thee and seeking to walk in Thy laws.

Be pleased to look graciously upon all classes of society this day, as they humble themselves before Thee, and make confession of their sins. Shed abroad in their hearts Thy Holy Spirit, deepen their repentance, strengthen their faith, and grant that the exercises of this day may be followed by all virtue and godliness of living.

O Lord, incline thine ear and hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; turn away from us Thy just displeasure; and cause the light of Thy countenance to shine upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

National Thanksgiving.

ETERNAL GOD, the Creator and Preserver of men, who art the Father of mercies and the source of all our blessings, who makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust, be pleased to look graciously upon us Thy servants, who come before Thee in the Name of Thy dear Son, desiring to offer unto Thee the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

We bless Thee for the watchful care which Thou hast extended over us ever since we were born, for the bountiful provision which Thou hast made for our temporal wants, and for the preservation from many evils which we have enjoyed. Above all, we bless Thee for the knowledge of Thyself to which Thou hast called us through Thy beloved Son, and for all the means of grace and instruction in righteousness which Thou hast provided for us. *Bless the* Lord, O our souls, and all that *is within* us bless His holy Name! Bless

the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all His benefits!

We desire especially this day to call to mind our national blessings, and to acknowledge Thy great and undeserved goodness in them all. Many, O Lord our God, are the wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts to usward as a nation; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee; if we would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered; yet would we gratefully cherish the remembrance of them, and seek to glorify Thee because of them.

We praise Thee for the light of Thy truth which we have so long enjoyed, for the deliverance granted to our fathers from those errors and superstitions which have degraded and enslaved so many lands, and for the honour which Thou hast conferred upon us in permitting Thy Word and the Gospel of Thy kingdom to go forth from our shores, in these last days, to the uttermost parts of the earth.

We bless Thee for the social and political privileges which we have enjoyed, for *the temporal* prosperity with which Thou

hast so bountifully favoured us, and for the high position to which Thou hast raised this kingdom amongst the nations of the earth.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name be the praise!

We acknowledge, with joy and thanksgiving, the blessings which we specially enumerate this day. May the praises of Thy people throughout the land ascend as incense before Thee; and be pleased to accept those thank-offerings which they shall present unto Thee with willing hearts. And may we remember that all things come of Thee, and that of Thine own alone can we give unto Thee.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power, and the glory and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in the earth is Thine. Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all.

To Thee alone be glory and honour and power, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

Thanksgiving for Harvest.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who hast revealed Thyself to us by Thy beloved Son, we approach Thee at this time with thankful hearts; for day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night teacheth knowledge of Thee, whilst the revolving seasons remind us of Thy faithfulness and truth.

Thou hast ever fulfilled Thy word and remembered Thy covenant; for, according to Thy most sure and certain promise, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, have not ceased. Thou hast dealt very graciously with the sons of men; for whilst we, alas, have too often forgotten Thee, Thou hast not left Thyself without witness, but hast done good to all men, sending us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

We desire at this time specially to acknowledge Thy loving-kindness towards us, and to bless Thee for the mercies which we *are receiving* at Thy hand; for Thou hast

watched over the precious seed committed to the ground, Thou hast visited the earth and watered it, Thou hast made it soft with showers, Thou hast blessed the springing thereof, and now Thou hast granted us an abundant harvest, causing the heart of the husbandman to rejoice, and providing, in Thy goodness, for the wants of man and beast.

To Thee alone, O gracious God, the Father of mercies, we ascribe the praise! The work is Thine, and the blessing descends from Thyself alone. Thou hast crowned the year with Thy goodness, and Thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

Accept, O Lord, the praises of Thy people everywhere at this time, as they sing before Thee according to the joy of harvest, and may their thanksgivings redound to Thy glory. Oh, that the hearts of many may be opened to honour Thee with their substance and with the first-

fruits of all their increase, that through Thy blessing, their barns may ever be filled with plenty, and their presses burst out with new wine.

Look mercifully upon those who are living in carelessness or in sin, and who desire not the knowledge of Thy ways. May the blessings of this season constrain them to think of Him who maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and who sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust; and may the goodness of God lead them to repentance.

Hasten, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the great harvest of the earth, and grant that when the Son of Man shall send forth His angels to sever the righteous from the wicked, we and all who are dear to us may be found meet to be gathered into Thy heavenly garner.

Hear us in these our humble petitions; accept, we pray Thee, our thanksgivings and our praises; and grant them to be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

The Close of the Year.

O LORD GOD Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come, be pleased to look graciously upon us Thy servants who draw near to Thee in the name of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, earnestly desiring at the close of another year to glorify Thee for Thy goodness and loving-kindness towards us, and to humble ourselves under Thy hand because of our many sins.

Our song this day is of mercy and judgment. Thy mercies have been more in number than the sand, and we praise and bless Thee for them. Thou hast watched over us in Thy love, fed us with food convenient for us, preserved us from many dangers, given to us many sources of comfort and enjoyment, and brought us to the close of the year, whilst many of our fellow-travellers have passed away. Above all *Thou* hast blest us with Thy word and ordinances, and hast comforted our hearts

with the hope of glory. Bless the Lord, O our souls, and forget not all His benefits.

Nor would we be unmindful of Thy judgments, but solemnly remember and consider the chastenings which we have received at Thy hand; for we know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are right, and that Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted us. When Thou causest us to pass under the rod, it is not for Thy pleasure, but for our profit, that we may be partakers of Thy holiness.

Give us grace, we beseech Thee, that we may receive with meekness those lessons of wisdom and instruction which Thou hast sought to impress upon us by the trials and sorrows of this year, and enable us to bow with deep submission to Thy will, in full assurance that all things shall work together for good to them that love Thee.

And, O Lord, as months and years pass by, it becomes us to remember all the way wherein Thou hast led us in the wilderness of life, to humble us, and to prove us, to

teach us what is in our hearts, and whether we would keep Thy commandments or no. Oh, enable us by Thy grace to do so; and so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Deepen our repentance, we pray Thee; strengthen our faith; teach us to do Thy will from our hearts; grant that Thy name may be glorified in us whilst we are upon the earth, and that we may accomplish what Thou wouldest have us to do, in our day and generation.

We are deeply sensible that in many things we have sinned against Thee, and grieved Thy Spirit in the year which is about to close. Pardon us, O Lord God, and if it be Thy will to add to our days, grant that we may serve Thee better than we have ever done, and walk before Thee in all righteousness and godliness of living.

We commend unto Thee all who are dear to us. May they be numbered with Thy people, kept by Thy mighty power through faith unto salvation, and brought in safety to Thine everlasting kingdom.

We bless Thee that Thou hast revealed

to us, that whilst the fashion of this world is passing away Thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end. Oh, be Thyself our portion and our strength, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

The Grace, &c.

SHORT PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

Intended to be used in addition to the Prayers for the Day.

On the Baptism of an Infant.

O LORD, our Heavenly Shepherd, who gatherest the lambs of Thy flock with Thine arm, and foldest them in Thy bosom, we bless Thee that Thou hast commanded little children to be brought unto Thee, and we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us Thy servants, who desire this day to consecrate to Thee, by the holy sacrament of Baptism, the little one whom Thou hast given us.

Receive *him*, O Lord, for Thine own child by adoption and grace; breathe upon *him* by Thy Holy Spirit, and grant that being baptized into the death of Thy Son, he may live together with Him. Give Thy holy angels charge concerning *him;* deliver *him* from evil ; grant *him* a long and useful life, if it be Thy will, and whatever may be the path appointed for *him*, oh, guide *him* by Thy counsel, and at last receive *him* into glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Children at School.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the hearer of prayer, who hast told us to ask, that we may receive, and to seek, that we may find, we earnestly beseech Thee to look upon our dear children now absent from us, and to bestow upon them Thy blessing.

Bless those under whose care they are placed, and grant that the instruction given to them may be in harmony with Thy word. Preserve them in health and strength; keep them from youthful temptations; bestow on them the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and incline their hearts to love the Lord Jesus Christ, and to follow Him.

Bless their companions and playmates. May they be taught to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and to keep the way of purity and righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before a Confirmation.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, without whose blessing all ordinances and means of grace are in vain, we beseech Thee to look graciously upon those young persons who are this day to make the first public confession of their faith, and to be confirmed by the laying on of hands. Bless them with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, and grant that they may ever walk worthy of the profession which they shall make this day.

We pray more especially for *those* of this family and household, whom we earnestly commend unto Thee. Bless *them*, O Lord, and make *them* truly Thine; strengthen *their* faith; keep *them* unspotted from the world; fulfil in *them* the good pleasure of Thy will, and bring *them* to Thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Before receiving the Lord's Supper.

MOST holy God, who hast prepared for us a table in the wilderness, and hast invited us to partake of the living bread which came down from heaven, whereof we may eat and not die, be pleased to look graciously upon us Thy servants, who desire to live by faith in Thy dear Son, who loved us and gave Himself for us, and who purpose this day to receive the most comfortable sacrament of His body and blood.

Enable us to draw near to Thy table in the spirit of true repentance, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, and to remember Him who was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, that our faith in Him may be strengthened, our love increased, and that we may be filled with all joy and peace in believing.

Be with all who shall this day approach Thy table in a right and proper frame of mind. Give them a true sense of Thy presence, deepen their repentance, comfort their hearts, and grant that the peace of God which passeth all understanding may keep their hearts and minds.

Have compassion, we beseech Thee, upon those who may communicate unworthily. Awaken their consciences, give them true repentance of their sins, and enable them, by Thy grace, to trust in the righteousness of Christ, which can alone make them acceptable guests at Thy table.

Hear us, in these our humble petitions, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After receiving the Lord's Supper.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of mercies, we give Thee most humble and hearty thanks that we have been permitted to approach Thy holy table this day, to take into our hands the memorials of our blessed Saviour's broken body and shed blood, and to show forth His death until He come.

We are not worthy of the least of all Thy mercies, and far less do we deserve to be thus brought to Thy banqueting-house, to feed on the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of Thy dear Son. Lord, may we evermore abide in Him, may we dwell in Christ and Christ in us, and feeling that we are one with Christ and Christ with us, may we ever seek to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee.

Keep us, we beseech Thee, unspotted from the world; preserve us from the tempter's power, and grant us to run with patience the race which is set before us, to *the glory* of Thy Name, through Jesus *Christ* our Lord. Amen.

On a Marriage in the Family Circle.

O LORD Jesus Christ, who didst adorn and beautify with Thy presence the marriage-feast at Cana of Galilee, we beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy presence and blessing at the marriage which shall be solemnized this day.

Bless Thy servants, our dear friends, who are to be joined together in holy matrimony; preside in their hearts by Thy Holy Spirit; unite them in the faith and love of Thy Name; grant them to be helpful to each other amidst the joys and sorrows, the duties and responsibilities of their earthly pilgrimage; and, above all, may they so live together in this life, that in the world to come they may have life everlasting; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

During the Illness of a Relative or Friend.

ALMIGHTY, everliving God, who dost correct those whom Thou dost love, and chastise every one whom Thou dost receive, we beseech Thee to look upon us in our present trial, and to lend Thine ear to the voice of our supplications.

Thou hast been pleased to visit with illness one who is very dear to us, and we desire earnestly to plead with Thee on *his* behalf. Bless to *him*, O Lord, this Thy fatherly correction, and grant it to work together for *his* good. May a sense of weakness constrain *him* to cast all *his* care on Thee, and may the uncertainty of life lead *him* to examine *himself* whether *he* be in the faith.

Rebuke *his* sickness, and restore *him* to health and strength, if it be consistent with Thy will; but, above all things, prepare *him* for whatever it may please Thee to appoint, that whether *he* live *he* may live unto the Lord, or whether *he* die *he* may die unto the Lord, that whether *he* live *or die he* may be the Lord's. Hear us, O *most* loving Father, for the sake of Jesus *Christ* our Lord. Amen.

On the Recovery from Illness of a Relative or Friend.

MOST gracious and merciful God, the hearer and answerer of prayer, we desire to render most humble and hearty thanks for Thy great goodness towards us in sparing the life of our dear friend lately visited by illness.

We gratefully acknowledge Thy hand in the sound judgment granted to *his* medical attendants, and in the success which has crowned their efforts on *his* behalf; and we beseech Thee to bestow on *him* Thy heavenly grace, that *he* may have Thy great goodness in remembrance, and dedicate to Thee the life which Thou hast so mercifully spared.

Watch over *him*, we pray Thee, as *he* returns to the discharge of duty, and to the intercourse of social life; save *him* from the world with its allurements, and teach *him* so to live that *he* may ever be prepared to die. Hear our humble prayer *through Jesus* Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Death of a Friend.

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose ways are not as our ways, and whose thoughts are not as our thoughts, we bow with deep submission to Thy will under this afflictive dispensation of Thy hand.

Thou hast been pleased to remove from us one who was very dear to us; but we sorrow not as those who have no hope, for we believe that as Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus God will bring with Him.

Enable us, we pray Thee, to realize the gain of death, that amidst our own sorrow we may rejoice that *he* whom we mourn, being delivered from the burden of the flesh, is in joy and felicity, beholding the glory of *his* Redeemer, and serving *Him in the* heavenly sanctuary.

Prepare each of us for that blessed

state, that we too, when absent from the body, may be present with the Lord.

Save us from all feeling of rebellion against this visitation of Thy hand, and enable us to say from our hearts, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord."

Hear us, in Thy tender mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On the Funeral of a Friend.

ETERNAL GOD and most merciful Father, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us Thy servants on this mournful occasion.

We are about to commit to the grave the remains of one who was very dear to us; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; and we earnestly entreat Thee to give us the grace and comfort which we need.

Amidst our present sorrow enable us to rejoice that Jesus Christ hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel, and to anticipate that blessed day when the grave shall yield its charge, when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this mortal shall put on immortality.

Let it please Thee, O Lord, shortly to accomplish the number of Thine elect, and to hasten Thy kingdom, for our Lord Jesus *Christ's* sake. Amen.

Before setting out on a Journey.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast instructed us in all our ways to acknowledge Thee, and hast promised that Thou wilt direct our steps, we beseech Thee to look graciously upon us Thy servants, who are about to undertake a journey this day.

Be pleased to preserve us from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; and carry us whither we would go in peace and safety.

May every journey that we undertake remind us that this is not our rest, but that we are travelling to that better country which Thou hast promised to give unto us; and oh, grant that we may at last arrive in safety at the city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God, through the merit of Thy Son Jesus *Christ our* Lord. Amen.

On returning safely from a Journey.

MOST gracious God, who art the portion and the defence of all who trust in Thee, we desire to render most humble and hearty thanks for Thy late mercies vouchsafed towards us Thy servants. Thou hast graciously watched over us in our journey, preserved us from many dangers, and brought us to this place in peace. Blessed be Thy holy Name.

Let it please Thee, O Lord, to watch over all who travel by land or by water; teach them to commit their way unto the Lord, and to trust in Thee at all times. May their earthly wanderings raise their thoughts to the rest and the inheritance which Thou hast promised to Thy people.

Continue Thy providential care over us Thy servants, O Lord; deliver us from evil, and preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth and for evermore, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Family Confession and Humiliation.

MOST Holy God, who hatest sin, whilst Thou showest mercy to sinners, and who wouldst have us to be a holy and peculiar people to Thyself, be pleased to look upon us Thy servants, who desire as a family and household to confess our many sins and shortcomings unto Thee, to humble ourselves on account of them, and earnestly to seek for true repentance and forgiveness.

We would mourn, *every individual apart*, calling to remembrance all wherein we have offended Thee, in thought, word, or deed; lamenting and bewailing our manifold sins and wickedness; our selfishness, vanity, and pride; our unholy tempers, evil passions, and corrupt affections; our neglect of watchfulness and prayer.

Have mercy upon us, O God, have mercy upon us. Wash us thoroughly *from our* iniquities and cleanse us from

our sins. Grant us to be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and so assist us by Thy grace that we may serve Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days.

We would also mourn *as a family*, realizing the endearing ties by which we are connected, and bringing to our remembrance the many instances in which we have failed in our duty towards Thee, and towards each other.

Forgive, O God, our forgetfulness of Thee, and pardon every breach of kindness, sympathy, and brotherly love, of which we have been guilty towards each other.

Thou art merciful and full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great goodness. Oh, be pleased to look upon us, according to the multitude of Thy mercies, and grant us perfect remission and forgiveness, through the merits and mediation of Thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Family Thanksgiving.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who art the Author and Giver of all good things, we come before Thee at this time with the feeble but hearty tribute of our thanksgiving and praise.

What shall we render unto Thee for all Thy mercies towards us? Thou hast indeed dealt bountifully with us; Thou hast preserved us by Thy providence, fed us with food convenient for us, granted us a large share of bodily health, and surrounded us with many comforts and enjoyments. Above all, Thou hast blest us with the knowledge of Thyself through Thy beloved Son, and hast called us to become Thy sons and daughters through faith in Him..

Thou hast, moreover, bestowed on us the means of grace, and hast given us a good hope of being hereafter partakers of Thy glory. How precious are Thy

thoughts to us, O God! how great is the sum of them! If we should count them, they are more in number than the sand.

We desire with one accord to thank and praise Thee for Thy great goodness towards us as a family (**and especially for Thy late mercies vouchsafed unto us*). Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation!

Give us grace, we pray Thee, to be ever showing forth Thy praise; preside in our hearts by Thy Spirit, and make us wholly Thine. May the voice of joy and melody be heard in our dwelling; and may our thanksgiving ever redound to the praise and glory of Thy Name, through Jesus Christ our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

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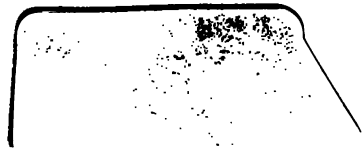
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